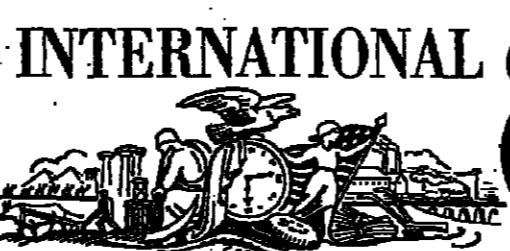


Herald Tribune



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The World's Daily Newspaper

Paris, Friday, November 27, 1998

DRIVING IN AUSTRIA, Page 10
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Politicians In U.K. Get Tug-of-War On Pinochet

Government Cautious About Extradition Case As Chile Seeks Release

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — General Augusto Pinochet's effort to escape extradition to Spain and a possible mass-murder trial moved into the political arena Thursday, with the British government facing the decision of whether to go forward with the diplomatically volatile case.

Home Secretary Jack Straw requested a weeklong extension, until mid-December, of the deadline by which he must authorize moving the Spanish petition for extradition forward or let the 74-year-old former dictator return home to Chile.

The Chilean Embassy delivered written arguments for the release of General Pinochet to the Home Office, and Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insua of Chile was flying to London from Santiago for a Friday morning meeting with Tony Blair, the foreign secretary.

Holding to a government line, Mr. Cook said he was stressed to his Chilean counterpart that the extradition process was judicial, not political. Mr. Straw, for his part, said he would be acting in a "quasi-judicial" role.

The Law Lords of the House of Lords, England's highest court, set the stage for Britain's deepening involvement in the case Wednesday by ruling that General Pinochet did not enjoy sovereign immunity from arrest under British law. The ruling, an unexpected reversal of a lower court decision last month, was hailed by human rights groups and a number of European governments as an advance in international law and a warning to dictators that they could not escape punishment for abuses in office. Critics denounced it as a reckless extension of authority across national boundaries that could empower rogue prosecutors to try to extradite people such as Queen Elizabeth II or President Bill Clinton on their travels abroad.

See PINOCHET, Page 6



Thousands Mourn Slain Iranian Dissident

The son of Dariush Forouhar, Arash, consoling his sister, Parastou, at their father's funeral in Tehran on Thursday. Tens of thousands, some chanting anti-government slogans, turned out to mourn the murdered opposition leader. The bodies of Mr. Forouhar and his wife were found in their home Sunday. Page 12.

Tempest at Tokyo Summit Wartime Memories Trip Up China-Japan Talks

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi apologized Thursday to President Jiang Zemin of China for Japan's World War II conduct, but the two countries immediately became entangled in an uproar about the wartime memories that still haunt relations between the two great powers of East Asia.

Mr. Jiang is the first Chinese head of state ever to visit Japan, and the five-day trip had been intended as a milestone in the process of healing the suspicions between the two countries. Instead, the meeting of the two leaders on Thursday seemed to inflame the antagonisms.

The upshot was that instead of focusing on the Asian economic crisis or the risks of war on the Korean Peninsula, the summit meeting has been caught up in disputes about events of half a century ago. Once again, the main force shaping East Asia's future has turned out to be its past.

Officials from both sides played down the disagreement, emphasizing that Mr. Jiang and Mr. Obuchi had agreed on a wide range of important issues, from environmental cooperation to youth exchanges. But a joint declaration by the two leaders was delayed for more than five hours, and in an unusual move it was released without being signed by anyone.

Mr. Jiang had wanted two concessions from Mr. Obuchi: a clear-cut written apology to the Chinese people for



President Jiang Zemin lending an ear to Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi on Thursday after the two leaders signed a youth-exchange pact in Tokyo.

World War II behavior by Japan, similar to the apology Japan gave South Korea last month; and a pledge about relations with Taiwan similar to the "three noes" statement by President Bill Clinton to China during the U.S. leader's visit earlier this year. Japan rebuffed Mr. Jiang on both counts, instead offering an oral apology for the war.

"For the Japan-China relationship to develop further in the future, it is necessary to face up to the past squarely,"

Mr. Obuchi told Mr. Jiang. "There was an unfortunate relationship between Japan and China for a certain period in the past."

"The Japanese government expresses once again its remorse and apology to China on this occasion," Mr. Obuchi added.

Akihiko Saiki, Prime Minister Obuchi's spokesman, said that Mr. Jiang had

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With 400 Days Left to Fix the Millennium Bug, It's Crunch Time

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — When the year 2000 computer problem gained wide recognition a couple of years ago, the first reaction was disbelief that a computer's inability to distinguish 2000 from 1900 could seriously disrupt modern life.

Subsequently, companies and governments around the world have undertaken billions of dollars to replace computers, upgrade decades-old software and test their equipment and operating systems. But with only 400 days to go to 2000, there is a growing realization that time is quickly running out.

So today, governments and industry no longer talk simply about fixing the millennium bug. They

are actively preparing contingency plans to keep vital operations going as best as can be done if and when problems arise.

"At this point in time, we can say with assurance there are people who aren't going to make it," said Michael Powell, a commissioner at the U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

"We're definitely past the period of where you're going to solve the problem. We're into mitigation."

The new emphasis on anticipating failures reflects the unprecedented nature of the year 2000 problem. The pervasiveness of technology and the complexity of supply chains can cause problems to

cascade through the global economy, disrupting business activity, communications and transportation networks, and basic services like power and water.

While multinational companies and banks appear well-prepared, many government agencies and companies, especially small businesses, are behind schedule or have yet to address the problem.

"We may be ready," said Max Rens, chief information officer of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. But he added, referring to Europe's patchwork of air-traffic control systems, "we can't fly if they are not ready."

The steps being taken range from the mundane,

like restocking forms to be able to revert to paper if computerized order systems fail, to the strategic, such as finding alternative suppliers of parts or stockpiling raw materials and finished goods, which companies like Unilever are considering.

American and British authorities are drawing up plans for police and emergency services to respond to widespread disruptions or civil unrest.

Even the U.S. Federal Reserve has gotten into action, ordering the printing of an extra \$50 billion of notes in case consumers hoard cash ahead of the millennium bug weekend.

"Contingency planning should be considered a legitimate exercise and not an admission that you

See BUG, Page 12

AGENDA

UN Food Agency Says Hunger Worsens Throughout World

ROME (Reuters) — The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said Thursday that the number of chronically hungry people in the world was rising and that the Asian financial crisis could spell even more pain for the poor.

The Rome-based agency, which in 1996 was host to a World Food Summit that aimed to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, said in an annual State of Food and Agriculture Report that the number of severely undernourished people in developing countries rose to 828 million in 1994-96, from 822 million in 1990-92.

The overall percentage of malnourished people as a part of the world population inched down to 19 percent from 20 percent over the period, but that slight improvement was nevertheless too small to compensate for population growth.

"Recent trends give no room for complacency as progress in some regions has been more than offset by a deterioration in others," the agency said in the report.

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DEADLY ACCIDENT — Rescuers searching the wreckage Thursday after two trains collided, killing at least 168, in the Indian state of Punjab. Page 4.

Exxon and Mobil Discuss Deal to Create Oil Giant

Coupled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp., split apart nearly 90 years ago by antitrust regulators, are discussing a merger that would create the world's premier energy business, people familiar with the deal said Thursday.

Exxon, the biggest U.S. oil company, and Mobil, the second-biggest, would have about 22 percent of the U.S. gasoline market and refine more oil than any company in the world.

The two companies would not comment on the talks or the price, but sources put the value of the deal at \$61 billion.

The combined company "would be the best, bar none, global oil concern," said Fadel Gheit, an analyst at Salomon Brothers & Co. in New York.

On Wednesday, Mobil shares rose 4.6 percent, to \$3,437.50, to \$78,375 on speculation it would be bought. Exxon closed unchanged at \$72,687.50. U.S. markets were closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Any union would reunite two parts of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil

Trust, which the U.S. Supreme Court broke up in 1911.

Exxon was then known as Standard Oil of New Jersey, and Mobil consisted of two companies: Standard Oil of New York and Vacuum Oil.

"This one stroke could reconstitute more than half of the value of the Standard Oil trust when it was broken up."

OPEC ministers fail to reach deal on further cuts in output. Page 13

said Ronald Chernow, a historian and author of the best-seller "Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller Sr."

Consequently, any plan to merge the oil giants would get close scrutiny from regulators. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission may require the two to sell some refining operations, fuel stations and pipelines to prevent unfair competition, said Steve Newborn, an antitrust lawyer with Rogers & Wells.

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Blair Makes Historic Plea Before Irish Parliament

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — Speaking as the first British prime minister ever to address the Irish Republic Parliament, Tony Blair said Thursday that centuries of British-Irish hostility and war had ended and that London and Dublin must now rescue the stalled Northern Ireland peace effort.

Mr. Blair, addressing a joint session of the Seanad, or Senate, and the Dail, or lower house, received several ovations, one when he said, "So much shared history, so much shared pain. And now the shared hope of a new beginning."

The event was covered live by Irish national television, another in the increasing efforts of Ireland and Britain to become closer. The Irish president, Mary MacAleese, has visited Queen Elizabeth II in London. The queen's husband, Prince Philip, visited Dublin two weeks ago.

The queen is widely expected to become the first British monarch to visit southern Ireland since it won independence after an insurrection in the early 1920s.

Many of the 226 Irish lawmakers smiled as Mr. Blair spoke a line of Gaelic, and as he talked nostalgically of his Irish roots.

"It is a cementing of the close friendly relationship between the two governments," said Brian Farrell, Irish television's senior commentator.

Mr. Blair had spent Wednesday in Belfast talking to the leaders of the main Northern Ireland parties. In his address Thursday, saying the peace effort was "at a difficult juncture," he urged a solution to the problems blocking the enactment of the provisions of the Northern Ireland peace agreement approved in the spring.

He alluded to the basic obstacle, the dispute over disarmament of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republican Army in the predominantly Protestant British province of Northern Ireland.

See BLAIR, Page 6

French Charity: A Weak Culture of Giving in the Land of Fraternity

By Charles Truchetet
Washington Post Service

PARIS — An unusually cold temperature claimed the lives of eight homeless people here this week and shelters were crammed to capacity. French leaders issued public appeals for vigilance and compassion. But what might sound like boilerplate elsewhere carried a pointed message here about civic responsibility and the stubborn limits of France's trademark fraternity. "Every French person should feel

personally concerned," President Jacques Chirac gently reminded his people, while Martine Aubry, the Socialist government's minister of employment and solidarity, was quite explicit in anticipating what French people might be telling themselves.

"All does not depend on the state or the mayor," she said. "Much can also depend on yourself. There's no point in shedding crocodile tears. Everyone can do something to make things better."

Parisians give to panhandlers on the street or in subway cars, and the French respond generously to faraway human

itarian disasters like Rwanda's or natural calamities like Hurricane Mitch. But the culture of individual giving to church, school, symphony or soup kitchen has never flourished here to the degree that it has in what the French call Anglo-Saxon societies, by which they mean English-speaking ones.

According to a recent study, the French citizen gives, on average, approximately .15 percent of his annual taxable income to nonprofit organizations.

See FRANCE, Page 6

Stuff a Turkey? Americans Prefer to Stuff Themselves

By Sharon Walsh
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Keith Eldridge is one of the people who made the traditional Thanksgiving scene come to life here: men and women loading ready-to-eat turkeys with all the trimmings into limousines, cars or taxis on the way home from the deli, grocery or caterer.

"Busy? I've never been so busy in my life!" Mr. Eldridge, executive chef at Eli's Vinegar Factory, said Thursday

as he shouted orders to employees preparing Thanksgiving dishes.

Four years ago, when this gourmet food store on the posh Upper East Side began offering cooked turkeys and prepared side dishes that New Yorkers could pick up or have delivered, it had 60 orders. This year, it had 450.

And New Yorkers were not alone. Of the 45 million turkey dinners at the center of Thanksgiving rituals around the United States this year, 13 percent included dishes not prepared by

cooks who rose at dawn to stuff the turkey, whip the potatoes and bake the pies, according to the Grocery Manufacturers of America. "This is the Thanksgiving of the future," said Vivian Deuschl, a vice president at Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co. "You leave it to the professionals."

New York, culinary experts say, is the ultimate city for takeout and delivery. The kitchen — some call it the unwrapping room — is small; time is scarce and there are thousands of gour-

met shops, caterers and restaurants. Take Laura Jones, an Upper East Sider who prepared Thanksgiving dinner for 10 friends by polishing the silver and putting out the Limoges plates.

"The first time I did Thanksgiving in Manhattan, it was a total disaster," said Ms. Jones, who carried home a 14-pound turkey to cook for that event.

"The turkey was too big for the oven. That's why I never cook."

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| Newspaper Prices | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Andorra | 10.00 FF |
| Afghanistan | 12.50 FF |
| Algeria | 10.00 CFA |
| Angola | 10.00 FF |
| Argentina | 10.00 FF |
| Armenia | 10.00 DR |
| Aruba | 10.00 CFA |
| Australia | 10.00 CFA |
| Austria | 10.00 CFA |
| Azerbaijan | 10.00 CFA |
| Bahrain | 10.00 CFA |
| Bangladesh | 10.00 CFA |
| Barbados | 10.00 CFA |
| Bolivia | 10.00 CFA |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 10.00 CFA |
| Bulgaria | 10.00 CFA |
| Burkina Faso | 10.00 CFA |
| Burma | |

Too Goody to Be True? / British Journalist's Next Stop: Lewinsky

Kenyans Puzzle Over Sympathetic Portrait of Moi

By Ian Fisher
New York Times Service

NAIROBI — The man hired to write Monica Lewinsky's side of the presidential scandal has become famous here in the last few weeks, maybe even more famous than she is. And from what Kenyans have seen, this much is clear: If she is looking for a sympathetic ear, she probably picked the right man.

Sandwiched between his account of the crumbling marriage of Diana, the Princess of Wales, and the Lewinsky book, the British journalist Andrew Morton spent three years writing about another public figure: Daniel arap Moi, the president of Kenya since 1978.

The book about Mr. Moi, a mysterious figure to many people here, was published this month. In the first few days it sold 7,000 copies, faster than any book before, as Kenyans rushed to read one of the only in-depth works about their president.

But sales are slacking off, and some Kenyans are growing angry at what they say is Mr. Morton's relentlessly sunny story, from Mr. Moi's boyhood in the rural Rift Valley to his rise to power to the still-unresolved murder in 1991 of one of his top aides.

The biography is so positive and apologetic that many people in Kenya are confused: either Mr. Morton was paid to write the book, which his publishers deny, or he was writing about some other Mr. Moi.

"Perhaps because serving his nation is now second nature, he rarely, if ever, thinks of himself before his country," reads a typical sentence in the 305-page book. "Moi: The Making of an African Statesman," published by Michael O'Mara Books, the same company that is putting out the Lewinsky book.

"It's an odd book," said John Githongo, a political analyst and



Andrew Morton, who wrote an account of the marriage of Diana, Princess of Wales, and will present the Monica Lewinsky version of the presidential scandal, was nice to Daniel arap Moi.

columnist for The East African, a weekly newspaper that has been running sections of the book this month, and selling a lot more papers because of it. "The character that is created is so different from the one most Kenyans believe they know."

"For Monica Lewinsky, I think it's quite healthy," he added. Despite his two decades in office, many Kenyans say their president remains a cipher. Critics contend he is an inarticulate throwback — one of the last African "Big Men," who has ruled by opposing multiparty democracy, encouraging ethnic divisiveness, at a minimum, sitting back as corruption eroded the economy.

There is a more charitable view, which Mr. Morton embraces on every page: that for all his faults, Mr. Moi has been a friend to the West who has kept Kenya largely peaceful as neighboring countries crumbled into conflict. Many people maintain education has improved, and

Kenyans, and their vibrant press, can mostly say what they please, although there are sometimes repercussions.

As his rule nears an end — Mr. Moi, 74, must step down in 2002 — he is reportedly worried about embedding the latter view into history.

Along came Mr. Morton, who had earned millions of dollars on his books about the British royalty, notably, "Diana: Her True Story," written in 1992 with the covert cooperation of the prince.

THERE has been much speculation, here and in Britain, about exactly why Mr. Morton decided to take on the project and why Mr. Moi, who has granted few interviews in his life, cooperated. A person close to both the government and Mr. Morton said Mr. Moi was concerned about his legacy and felt Mr. Morton would be sympathetic.

"There is a feeling at State House that the president doesn't get a fair wind," the person said. Despite speculation in the press here about exactly how much Mr. Morton might have been paid for the book, the person denied that any money had changed hands. "He looked me straight in the eye and told me in absolutely no way was he paid by State House," the person said.

Still, the book's tone has done little to dampen suspicions. "One cannot help hoping that Morton was well paid for this book," read a scathing review in The Times of London, "since it will do his reputation nothing but harm."

Mr. Morton, reportedly toiled in Los Angeles with Ms. Lewinsky working on her book, could not be reached for comment.

But he has become a celebrity in his own right here, though much of the attention has not been good. Most contentious has been Mr. Morton's explanation of the murder of Dr. Robert Ouko, the foreign minister who was seen as a possible rival to Mr. Moi. The

House of Commons

death has long hung over Mr. Moi's rule, and the killing has been linked to several people close to the president.

Mr. Morton singles out one of them, Hezekiah Oyugi, the security chief, raising the possibility that Mr. Ouko had an affair with one of Mr. Oyugi's three wives.

Mr. Oyugi died six years ago, but his family disputes Mr. Morton's account.

ONE of Kenya's most respected jurists, Justice Richard Otieno Kwach, is threatening to sue Mr. Morton over an allegation that he and two other judges investigating the murder were regularly entertained at Mr. Oyugi's house.

"He didn't give any of us the opportunity to rebut the allegations," Justice Kwach said. "He just swallowed what he was given, hook, line and sinker."

Justice Kwach fumed during most of an interview, but then broke out into unjudicial laughter when the subject of Monica Lewinsky's book arose.

"I wasn't surprised," he said. "I don't think he will be engaged in anything better."

A sampling of Kenyans in Nairobi said that the book was worth reading no matter what, simply, they said, because they know so little about Mr. Moi's life. What they thought of the book depended largely on what they thought of the man.

"Everyone wants to know the personal life of the president — why he is such a great president and what his secret is being so powerful, great and energetic," said Jitesh Upadhyay, 34, a bookstore owner.

"I want to know how he has survived all these political upheavals," said George Muthura, 26, an anthropology student who had just bought the book. "I'm not very optimistic. But I'm hoping to get some clues."

Adoptee Undoes A State of Secrecy

By Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Service

PORTLAND, Oregon — She spent almost all the money she had, campaigned day and night for a year and baffled adoption advocates from across the country. Now, finally, Helen Hill has exactly what she wants: The right for her, and others like her who are adopted, to learn the identity of their birth parents.

Ms. Hill's crusade ended in triumph when voters in Oregon this month approved a ballot initiative that would make this the first since the 1950s to unseal confidential birth records and give any adoptees who ask a full accounting of their pasts, even if their natural parents never wanted them to find out.

In the complex, emotional world of adoption, the new law marks a revolutionary shift. It is deeply dividing the U.S. adoption industry. Some people who help arrange adoptions are so dismayed by its approval that they are rushing to get the state legislature or Oregon courts to negate it. Other adoption groups are so ecstatic that they are planning to take their cause directly to voters in other states across the West.

At the heart of the debate is a question that may still find difficult to answer: Who should have more rights, a parent who gives up a child for adoption or a child who was adopted?

"We have been on the losing side of this issue for decades," said Ms. Hill, 43, a soft-spoken adoptee who teaches art in the coastal town of Nehalem, Oregon, an hour's drive west of Portland. "This has been a system that engenders too much shame and secrecy, and this is our first major step to reclaim our dignity."

Only a few months ago, opponents of her measure were paying little attention to it because it seemed so poorly funded and obscure. Now, after watching it pass with nearly 58 percent of the vote, their worry is whether it will spread. And they are convinced that it will produce far more pain than healing.

Under the new Oregon law, for example, mothers who never told their families or friends of their secret decision to put up a child for adoption years ago, or those who gave up a child conceived during a rape, could be exposed even though at the time the state promised them complete confidentiality.

"This invades people's privacy in the most basic way," said William Pierce, president of the National Council for Adoption, a Washington group that represents professionals in the field. "It is a terrible precedent. This tells people who won't take 'no' for an answer that they can have whatever information they want, no matter what it damages."

It was once common practice to keep adoption records open. But after World War II, amid a surge of out-of-wedlock births and a socially conservative mood across the country, every state but Kansas passed laws that shrouded adoptions in secrecy. Since then, Alaska in the 1950s and, more recently, Tennessee have overturned those laws. But the Tennessee legislation is mired in the courts and has not gone into effect.

Today, the stigma that once surrounded many adoptions are fading. It is no longer unusual even for the two sets of parents involved in an adoption to work together or meet briefly, or for children to learn that they were adopted as soon as they are old enough to comprehend what that means.

But that new climate does little good for the many thousands of children adopted a generation ago. As they have come of age, often with at best a sketchy sense of their past, they have put pressure on states to tell them more, and they claim they usually meet resistance.

Many states are willing to give adoptees general information about their natural parents, such as their ethnicity or occupations. Others have created adoption registries in which third parties investigate whether a parent wants to be contacted. But that information sets off a protracted investigation that may or may not turn up the birth parents.

As a result, some adoptee-rights groups say both steps are too limited or too flawed.

Ms. Hill and an activist group called Bastard Nation have been working for several years to get the rules of confidentiality in past adoptions changed. Their efforts in state legislatures never went far. Then they realized that Oregon, like many other states in the West, had a relatively easy process for getting a citizen-sponsored initiative on the ballot.

Ms. Hill contributed more than \$85,000 from an inheritance she received from her adoptive father — who himself was adopted — to promote the ballot initiative. Most of it was paid to the firm that collected the required voter signatures.

The American Civil Liberties Union opposed the measure, as did the most prominent Oregon newspapers. Ms. Hill and Bastard Nation tacked money for radio or television advertising; they bought only one full-page newspaper ad. But they won the backing of such prominent adoptees as Michael Reagan, son of the former president, and Christina Crawford, daughter of the late actress Joan Crawford and author of the best-selling book "Monroe Dearest."

Flip Wilson, Pioneering Black Comedian, Is Dead at 64

By Mel Watkins
New York Times Service

variety show in the 1970s became one of America's best-watched programs.

Late in his career, Mr. Wilson said of the irrepressible Geraldine, "She carried me longer than my mother did."

Geraldine and the Reverend Leroy, along with Mr. Wilson's likable personality, seemingly effortless delivery, and joyful depiction of the language and mannerisms of black street life helped catapult "The Flip Wilson Show" to No. 1 in the ratings among variety shows shortly after it began on NBC in 1970. The next year Mr. Wilson won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing Achievement for a Variety Show and, by 1972, his show was second in the overall ratings only to Archie Bunker and "All in the Family."

More storyteller than one-liner standup comic, Mr. Wilson's winding tales and uninhibited use of the timbre and resonance of black dialect were often compared to the Yiddish inflections and stories of the comedian Myron Cohen.

Richard Pryor told him, "You're the only performer that I've seen who goes on the stage and the audience hopes that you like them."

Unlike many groundbreaking comedians of his period, most notably Lenny Bruce, Dick Gregory and Mort Sahl, Mr. Wilson stayed far afield of politics and social satire. "Things can be funny only when we are in fun," he insisted. "When we're 'dead earnest,' humor is the only thing that is dead."

In his version of the discovery of America, Christopher Columbus tells Queen Isabella. "If I don't discover America, there's not gonna be a Benjamin Franklin or a 'Star-Spangled Banner' or a land of the free, or a home of the brave — and no Ray Charles." When the queen hears this, she screams,

"Chris gone find Ray Charles! He goin' to America on that boat. What you say!"

Wilson also delighted in telling shaggy dog stories that wound through circuitous asides and ended with unexpected puns and innocuous word play. In a routine set near the Coliseum in ancient Rome where the Christians fought the lions, he announced: "Those lions were undefeated — the Christians had a great coach ... but the team was shakky."

And his story of a vaudeville comedy team called Well Enough and Bad Enough concludes in a courtroom scene after one comic has been assaulted by a hotel clerk. Given a particularly harsh sentence, the hotel clerk asks the judge, "How come you being so hard on me?" The judge replies, "I'm trying to teach you to leave Well Enough alone."

Clerow Wilson was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, on Dec. 8, 1933, one of a family of 18 children. He was placed in foster care at the age of 7, shortly after his mother abandoned the family. A series of unhappy periods in foster homes followed; after running away more than a dozen times, he was sent to reform school.

At 13 he rejoined his father, but at 16 he quit school and, lying about his age, joined the air force. His knack for creating outlandish stories and acting them out in various dialects led some members of his outfit to conclude that he was "flipping out." Soon, everyone was calling him Flip.

After his discharge in 1954, Mr. Wilson worked his way across the United States, appearing in black clubs and theaters where he honed his skills and silenced hecklers with lines such as, "You know, when we take over, we going to have to kill some of us, too."

TRAVEL UPDATE

France Faces New Rail Strike

PARIS (AP) — France's state-owned railroad, the SNCF, said Thursday it was cutting back services sharply as the second strike called by

French rail unions this week was scheduled to begin.

The strike, to put pressure

on the SNCF to hire more workers, was to start Thursday evening and last until Saturday morning.

Railroad officials said such

international services as the

high-speed Eurostar line to

London and the Thalys line to Brussels as well as high-speed trains to Switzerland would not be affected.

The SNCF said domestic services in most of France would be cut by two-thirds and that Paris-area commuter trains would also be af-

fected.

Scandinavian Airlines

System plans to add a flight to its Copenhagen-Luxembourg service starting Jan. 10, bringing the total number of weekly flights to three. The company will also begin service between Copenhagen and Helsingborg, Norway, on Jan. 11. (AP)

Air France will introduce three daily flights each between Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris and Edinburgh and Glasgow on March 28. The flights, with are to be operated by Air France's franchise partner, Jersey European Airways. (AP)

The installation is part of a plan by France's Culture Ministry to put 20 pieces of modern sculpture in the gardens by the end of next year.

Parisians will be able to see the new works in the Tuileries Garden, the Luxembourg Palace and the Champs Elysees.

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THE AMERICAS

Kevorkian Could Find An Understanding Jury

Case Will Test Issue of Euthanasia vs. Murder

By William Glaberson

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Prosecutors are at a sharp disadvantage in the first-degree premeditated murder case they filed against Dr. Jack Kevorkian because a jury might find it easy to sympathize with the suffering of the terminally ill, experts in criminal law said.

Dr. Kevorkian was arrested Wednesday in Waterford Township, Michigan. Magistrate Robert Crawford released him the same day, but warned him he would have to pay a \$750,000 bond if he took part in "any homicide, euthanasia, or whatever you call it. Any action used in taking of human life."

Law professors and experienced defense lawyers said Dr. Kevorkian, who has escaped numerous prosecutions, could again argue that the law is out of step with society's desire to help ease the pain of terminally ill people.

Whether assisted suicide, or euthanasia, is morally right or wrong, several of the experts say, jurors are often uncomfortable applying existing laws to such cases.

"The law of murder was not drafted with these sorts of cases in mind," said Franklin Zimring, a professor of criminal law at the law school at the University of California at Berkeley.

That would give Dr. Kevorkian an advantage over prosecutors in a trial in the televised death that Dr. Kevorkian has described as his first euthanasia, legal experts said.

Dr. Kevorkian appears to be acknowledging that he intentionally caused the death of Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old man suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, whose final moments were shown on the CBS news program

"60 Minutes" Sunday. Several lawyers said that constitutes murder under the law.

But they said that, in a courtroom, the issues would be far more complex. For example, they said, to find premeditated murder jurors generally must conclude that the killer acted with malice aforethought, which is defined as "disregard of human life."

Mark Biros, a former prosecutor who is now at the law firm of Proskauer Rose in Washington, said, "Dr. Kevorkian turns that whole concept on its head because he says, 'Look, I have total regard for life,'" with his assertion that he is helping to ease pain.

That argument, lawyers said, would not likely get far with a judge. But jurors might be attracted to such a claim because of their empathy with the victims of serious illnesses.

Similarly, legal experts said, the courts are likely to be hostile to any claim that Mr. Youk gave his permission to be killed. Courts and legislatures have said that they cannot permit people to approve their own deaths because that would open a Pandora's Box of potential abuses.

But jurors might be swayed by assertions that justice demands that a suffering person be in control over his or her death, said Robert Lawry, a criminal law professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland.

If Dr. Kevorkian was convicted of murder, he could be sentenced to life in prison. The severe sentence, some lawyers said, could help Dr. Kevorkian fight the case.

Even people who disapprove of euthanasia, these lawyers said, could say that it would be irrational to impose on a



Jeff Kowalski / AP Wire Photo
Dr. Jack Kevorkian leaving a Michigan court under a \$750,000 bond.

murder killer the same sentence that would be imposed on cold-blooded killers.

Dr. Kevorkian's strength in court in the past has often come from such sympathies. He was acquitted in three trials involving five deaths, one case against him ended in a mistrial, a judge threw out a murder charge in 1990 and another murder case was dropped in 1992.

■ Criticism of TV Program

Howard Kurtz of *The Washington Post* reported:

By televising a death that was choreographed for the cameras, "60 Minutes" bought itself a huge audience, a torrent of publicity and some of the harshest criticism ever leveled at the 30-

year-old program. CBS executives insist they performed a valuable service in airing a videotape of Dr. Kevorkian giving a patient a lethal injection. But in the days since the Sunday broadcast, detractors have accused them of turning death into entertainment and giving the doctor's crusade for euthanasia a prime-time platform.

Roman Catholic leaders, joined by Cardinal James Hickey of Washington, have denounced the program and urged a letter-writing campaign.

Hundreds of viewers have called the network, a majority of them with negative comments. Some talk radio hosts, editorial writers and media analysts have been scathing, while others have been supportive.

Hyde's Staff Preparing Articles of Impeachment

Only Perjury Count Has a Chance, an Aide Says

By Alison Mitchell
and Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

Republican leadership, Republicans say there is little if any coordination of a common strategy.

Intent on finishing work soon, Mr. Hyde sent a letter Wednesday to the White House threatening to subpoena the president if he did not respond by Monday to 81 questions sent to him by the committee three weeks ago. White House officials say the president will respond Friday.

Mr. Hyde may also ask his committee, after a hearing Tuesday into the consequences of perjury, to subpoena additional witnesses. Republican committee aide said. And he may soon seek a vote to release documents held under seal in additional boxes that Mr. Starr has sent the committee in recent weeks.

The Judiciary Committee is moving steadily along the path toward recommending impeachment even though moderate Republicans outside the committee and some experienced House Republican aides say they think a floor vote on even a single count of perjury would be too close to call. Any article beyond perjury, obstruction of justice and witness tampering, and, on the basis of the president's repeated assertion of legal privileges, abuse of power.

Mr. Hyde, Republican of Illinois, who is chairman of the committee, is overseeing the work, which is being done by David Schippers, the investigative counsel for the panel's majority, and Thomas Mooney, the committee's staff director.

The committee official who spoke of the drafting Wednesday, on the condition of anonymity, said that as part of the process, aides were looking at the report sent to the committee by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, as well as the Watergate articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon and impeachment cases against three federal judges.

The committee staff is not preparing any version of a censure resolution, even though many in the House maintain that censure could win approval on the House floor and that impeachment cannot. While there have been routine contacts between the committee and the

party whip.

Because Representative Bob Livingston, the incoming speaker, has said any lawmaker's vote on impeachment will be a vote of conscience, Republican leaders are not conducting formal counts by the party whip.

But Republicans outside the committee say they expect 15 to 20 of their members to defect, even on a perjury count. That means that five to 10 Democrats would have to vote for impeachment for it to prevail.

The House, where terms expire on Jan. 3, now has 228 Republicans, 206 Democrats and one independent, who usually votes with the Democrats.

POLITICAL NOTES

Aide Says Starr Inquiry Might Go On for 2 Years

WASHINGTON — The office of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, will remain open for business for up to two more years as it wraps up lingering investigations, and prosecutors may consider indicting President Bill Clinton after he leaves the White House, according to a Starr aide.

With criminal charges pending against two Clinton associates, Webster Hubbell and Susan McDougal, and other indictments still possible — prosecutors need more time to complete their work and issue a final report, said Charles Bakaly Jr., a spokesman for Mr. Starr.

Mr. Bakaly said it was likely that the prosecutor's office would remain open for a minimum of a year and a half and perhaps two years.

The time would be needed, he said, "even if everybody came in tomorrow, let's say, and accepted responsibility or somehow we were able to resolve the outstanding aspects of the investigation tomorrow."

As some members of the House Judiciary Committee began quietly exploring a possible deal to avoid removing the prosecutor from office, the prospect of a criminal indictment against Mr. Clinton has emerged, and Mr. Bakaly's timetable would allow for such a possibility.

Asked whether Mr. Starr was open to the idea of indicting Mr. Clinton after his term ended in January 2001, Mr. Bakaly said, "I think that's fair to conclude, but I don't want to send any signals here."

Mr. Bakaly added, "There's no statute of limitations problem. We have developed a criminal case."

(WP)

Subpoena Seeks Tapes From Tripp's Neighbor

WASHINGTON — A Maryland grand jury investigating whether Linda Tripp illegally taped telephone conversations with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky has ordered one of Mrs. Tripp's neighbors to turn over any of the secretly made tapes that Mrs. Tripp or others may have given her.

A grand jury subpoena directs Kathleen Ann Manwiller, who lives across the street from Mrs. Tripp in Columbia, Maryland, to bring any originals or copies of tapes with her to a Dec. 10 appearance before the 23-member panel. The subpoena also asks for any memos and other documents "reflecting the existence, location or possession" of the tapes by anyone other than the office of Kenneth Starr.

Mrs. Tripp spent several hours in Ms. Manwiller's house on at least one occasion in January, when the Lewinsky scandal first became public.

(WP)

Quote/Unquote

Charles Yob, Republican national committeeman from Michigan, announcing that he will challenge Jim Nicholson in a three-way race for the national party chairmanship: "I'm off and running. I don't think anybody's going to win on the first ballot. If there's a second ballot, Nicholson's dead."

(AP)

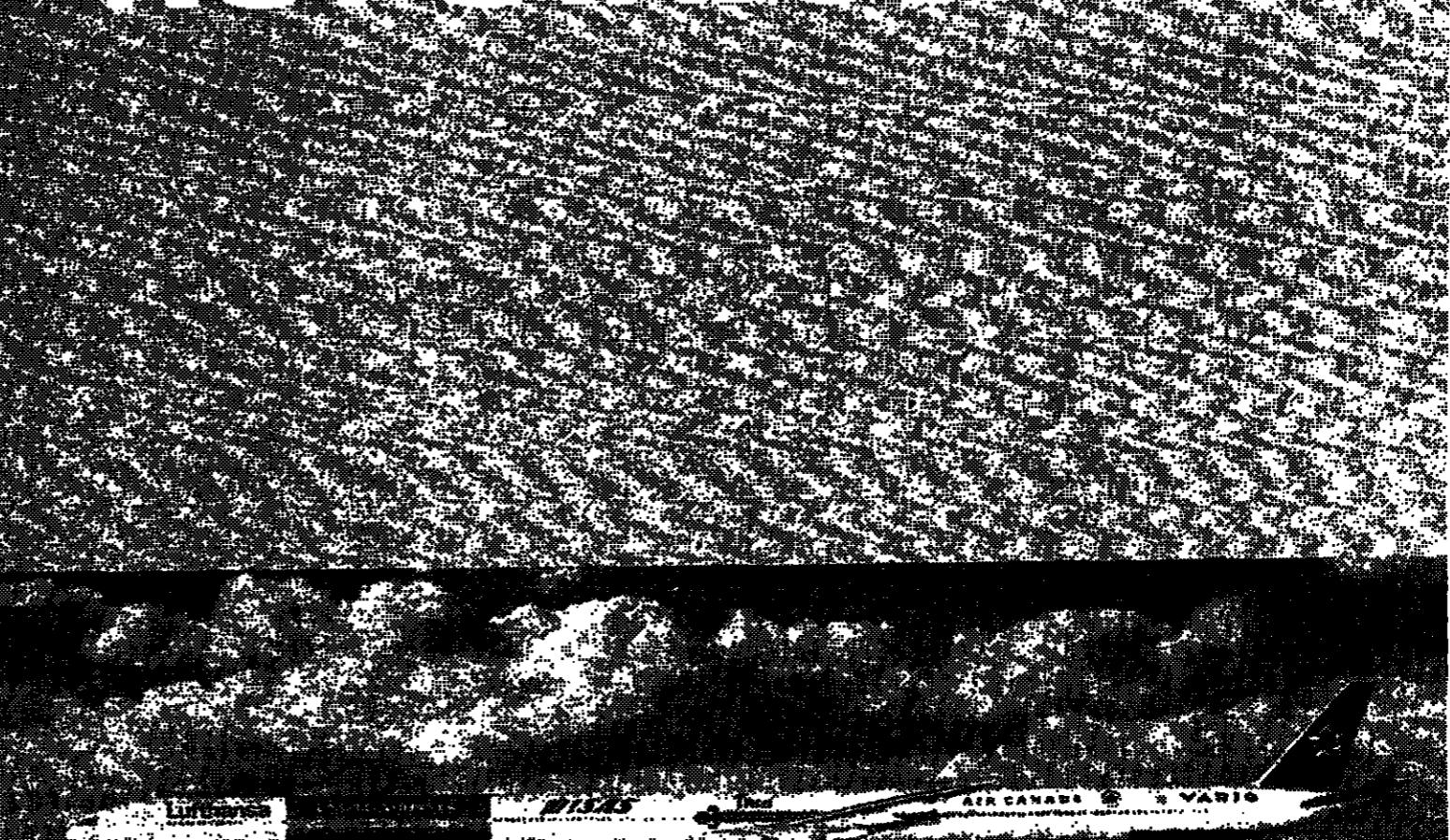
Away From Politics

• Powerful winds and heavy rains triggered mud slides and prompted renewed concerns about flooding as the second storm in three days pummeled the Northwest. Gusts of about 100 miles (160 kilometers) per hour were recorded in Portland, Oregon, while relentless downpours brought record rainfall to Seattle and Olympia, Washington. (AP)

• White residents of Appalachia die from heart disease at younger ages and in larger numbers than other Americans, researchers said, attributing the phenomenon to a shortage of medical facilities in the poor, rural Eastern region. (Reuters)

• Berkeley, California, is moving to ban sleeping on two avenues from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. The City Council's proposed no-sleeping measure, aimed at homeless people, includes a provision to make beds available in shelters for drug users. (Reuters)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Former POWs Fail to Win Compensation In Tokyo Court

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A Tokyo court on Thursday rejected a demand for compensation by soldiers and civilians from other countries who were held prisoner by Japanese troops during World War II.

The lawsuit was filed in 1995 by seven plaintiffs on behalf of 20,000 members of veteran and civilian ex-prisoner organizations from Australia, Britain, New Zealand and the United States.

The decision was the first handed down in Japan in a suit brought by former POWs from Allied countries. The plaintiffs said they would appeal.

The plaintiffs demanded \$22,000 each for what they claimed were violations of their rights under international treaties and conventions on the treatment of war prisoners. The total claim was for \$440 million.

The court ruled that the issue was resolved in 1951 with the signing of the San Francisco peace treaty.

The presiding judge, Shigeki Inoue, said in his verdict that because of the 1951 treaty, individuals or groups could not seek compensation from the government. He said compensation issues must be dealt with on a government-to-government level.

Japan forced POWs to work in shipyards, mines and jungles in violation of international law. Some were also beaten or executed. The POW death rate at the Japanese camps was 27 percent, compared with a rate of 4 percent at Allied camps.

A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Martin Day, said the ruling and the court's refusal to consider testimony on the suffering his clients endured were an insult to the former prisoners.

"We have received a judgment that has been a kick in the teeth," Mr. Day said. "I think the Japanese court today should be ashamed of itself."

Mr. Day said the plaintiffs were willing to take the case to the Japanese Supreme Court. Gilbert Hair, representing the American former prisoners, said his group was also considering suing for compensation for slave labor under an international labor treaty signed by the Japanese in the 1930s.

Mr. Hair said the plaintiffs could also try to sue their own governments for compensation, arguing that those governments did not do enough to further the former prisoners' cause. But he said those suing preferred to be compensated by the Japanese.



Former prisoners of war and civilian internees who were held by Japan during World War II arriving at Tokyo District Court on Thursday. The judge dismissed their demand for compensation for alleged rights violations.

At Least 108 Die in India In Predawn Train Wreck

Chennai, India Staff From Express

KAURI, India — A passenger train rammed into another train in the northern Indian state of Punjab on Thursday, killing at least 108 people and injuring about 150, the police said.

The crash occurred before dawn when the Ambala-bound Sealdah Express rammed into derailed cars of the Frontier Golden Mail near Kauri village.

The railroad minister, Nitish Kumar, said a coupling between two cars of the Frontier Mail had broken, derailing the train. Two minutes later, the Sealdah Express crashed into the cars.

"Suddenly I heard a loud thud and I fell down from my seat, I was unconscious and later, when I regained consciousness, I was in the hospital bed."

Pharmacies donated medicine to help the small government hospitals, which were overwhelmed with victims and had run out of supplies. The government prepared to bring in doctors from the state capital, Chandigarh.

Kauri, about 70 kilometers (40 miles) from Chandigarh, is near Khanna, India's biggest grain market town. Ambala is 45 kilometers from Chandigarh.

Despite government efforts to improve rail safety, about 300 accidents occur every year on India's railroads, the largest network under one management in the world. In January, 52 people were killed in a train collision on a foggy morning in the northern city of Lucknow. In August 1995, two trains collided near New Delhi, killing 358 people in the worst train wreck in India's history. More than 12 million people ride 14,000 trains across India every day.

(Reuters, AP)

and sweaters to the victims, many of whom were dressed in pajamas.

Ram Kumar, one of the injured passengers, said: "Most passengers were asleep when the accident took place. I was also asleep on my seat."

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EUROPE

Spanish Judge Heading Pinochet Inquiry Plans to Examine U.S. Files

By Marilise Simons
New York Times Service

PARIS — The Spanish judge who wants the former dictator of Chile, Augusto Pinochet, to stand trial, plans to go to Washington to try to see secret U.S. government files, court officials in Spain say.

They say that the judge's plans to build up his case will go ahead, regardless of whether the general continues to be held in detention in London or is set free.

On Wednesday, the House of Lords rejected the general's claim to immunity. That leaves it to the British government to act on the Spanish extradition request. The Spanish judge, Baltasar Garzon, filed the request in mid-October, seeking to

try the general on charges of terrorism, torture and genocide.

Judge Garzon is said to be particularly interested in U.S. government files relating to events of the 1970s, when the CIA and U.S. Embassy personnel were close to the Pinochet regime and knew of the activities of its powerful secret police.

This police force is widely considered to be responsible for the worst excesses of the Pinochet regime, including the kidnapping, torture and summary executions of leftist opponents.

Washington has thousands of secret files from that period, and Judge Garzon is expected to ask for hundreds of specific documents from the State and Justice departments relating to events in

Argentina as well as Chile. He will be making the request under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which allows for such exchanges and was signed by Spain and the United States. He will also ask to hear witnesses.

His visit would be the second by a member of the Spanish investigating team.

Another judge, Manuel Garcia Castellon, who has since stepped down from the investigation went to Washington last January after the U.S. government indicated it was willing to cooperate. But court officials said that he had made little headway because he was given only documents that were already in the public realm.

In a letter to President Bill Clinton last month, after the arrest of General

Pinochet, 36 members of Congress complained that despite the president's personal promise, the government had been slow to assist Spain in the case. "It is our understanding that the United States has materials and other critical information that will help link Pinochet directly to acts of international terrorism," the letter said.

Unfortunately, the letter said, the Justice Department gave the Spanish judge public documents only and did not elicit important testimony from witnesses.

The Justice Department material stems from its investigation of a car bomb that went off in Washington in 1976 and killed a former foreign minister of Chile, Orlando Letelier, and an American assistant, Ronni Moffitt.

Agents of the Chilean secret police prepared and detonated the time bomb, and the former police chief, Manuel Contreras, is serving a prison sentence for the crime.

This killing is one of the events Judge Garzon is interested in. He wants to know whether — and if so, how — General Pinochet was linked to the event. At the time, General Contreras was answerable to General Pinochet.

Judge Garzon is also said to be interested in finding out more details about Operation Condor, a pact that the intelligence services of five South American military regimes made in 1973 to hunt down leftists and to stamp out what they considered a Communist threat.

"Condor practiced international ter-

rorism, they kidnapped people across borders, exchanged prisoners and tortured and secretly killed them," a Spanish court official involved in the investigation said this week. "There is an interest in Condor because it shows the coordination of the crimes."

A declassified cable from the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, dated September 1976 and part of Judge Garzon's files, said that Operation Condor was conceived to carry out joint operations against "leftists, Communists and Marxists," in which special teams would "locate and surveil the target" while other teams would "carry out the actual sanction."

The cable said that Chile was the center of the operation and that other countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, and perhaps Brazil, were members. It said that members showing "the most enthusiasm to date" had been Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. Dozens of people were reportedly kidnapped and killed under the plan, including Spanish citizens, two Uruguayan lawmakers, students and political activists.

Judge Garzon wants to know more about the number of victims of the operation and to gather more information about the extent of responsibility of General Pinochet and other senior Chilean and Argentine military officials.

In a parallel investigation, Judge Garzon is also focusing on the fate of Spanish and other victims during the "dirty war" in Argentina between 1976 and 1983, when the military and police forces secretly imprisoned and executed more than 10,000 people in their campaign against leftists. He will also request to see U.S. government documents relating to Argentina.

Human rights workers believe that Washington's files are richest on Chile,

though, because of the deep U.S. involvement in that country before and after the military coup of 1973 in which General Pinochet seized power. The administration of President Richard Nixon openly favored the coup, and it helped prepare the climate for the military intervention against the socialist government of Salvador Allende, blocking loans, financing strikes and supporting the opposition press. It is Washington's own role at the time that may inhibit its cooperation with the Spanish investigation, some U.S. human rights workers said.

"The U.S. may have more documents linking Pinochet to the Lettier killing and to other events," said Reed Brody, a lawyer with Human Rights Watch in New York. "But the U.S. has been less than interested in cooperating with Spain. If this were a case the U.S. would like to see prosecuted, the response would be more energetic and cooperative."

BRIEFLY

Germans Charge Ex-Gestapo Agent

STUTTGART — German prosecutors said Thursday they had charged a 79-year-old man with involvement in the Nazi massacres of 17,000 people in Ukraine and Poland more than 50 years ago.

The former Gestapo secret police official, identified in media reports as Alfons Goetzfried, an ethnic German born in Ukraine, has been in investigative custody in the southwestern German city of Stuttgart since March.

He stands accused of aiding and abetting 17,000 murders, mostly of Jews, in 1942 and 1943, and of having killed 500 people himself.

After World War II, he spent 13 years in a Siberian prisoner-of-war camp. Prosecutors said the suspect had moved to Germany from Kazakhstan in 1991. (Reuters)

Czech Curb on Pork Regretted' by EU

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday it regretted a Czech decision to restrict imports of pork from the EU and defended its own increase in export subsidies for pork as legitimate under global trade rules.

"It's a regrettable measure, particularly as the discussions are still going on," said Gerry Kiely, spokesman for the EU agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler.

The Czech government Wednesday decided to scrap a preferential import duty of 15 percent on EU pork imports, raising the tariff to nearly 41 percent. (Reuters)

Russia Candidates Might Be Screened

MOSCOW — Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin said Thursday that Russian authorities wanted new powers to check election candidates for criminal connections after the murder of a liberal parliamentarian.

Mr. Stepashin is heading the investigation into the killing last week of Galina Starovoitova in St. Petersburg, where liberals fear some of their rivals in a local election next month have links with criminals.

The interior minister said he would ask for "law enforcement agencies to be given the right to check connections between future candidates and the criminal world," according to the Inter-Tass news agency. (Reuters)

Schroeder Under Fire

Tensions Build Up With Coalition Partner And Within His Social Democratic Party

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

together labor unions and industry leaders.

"The root of Mr. Schroeder's difficulties is the unresolved questions within the Social Democratic Party," said Werner Weidenfeld, a political scientist. "There are two streams, the traditionalists and the modernizers, and it is still unclear who will decide between them. The result is a turbulence that may last."

For the moment, Mr. Schroeder, whose essential political talent is that of a very effective communicator, at once polished and unrefined, has appeared to want to remain above the fray.

This policy of aloofness may spare him the worst of the vitriol flying between the wings of his party, but at some point it appears inevitable that the chancellor will have to intervene more forcefully or face growing criticism for indecisiveness.

Confusion has also been evident outside the critical economic area.

One of the more resolute commitments of the Red-Green coalition is to change Germany's restrictive nationality laws, allowing more of the 7 million foreigners living in the country to become German citizens. "Germany is a land of immigration" has been among the most forthright slogans of the Greens.

The commitment to change the law for foreigners already living in Germany re-



Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder speaking Thursday at the EU in Brussels.

mains intact. But Otto Schilly, the Social Democratic interior minister, infuriated the Greens last week by saying that the "limits of Germany's capacity to take new immigrants has been exceeded."

The statement reflected an economic reality: The German social security system is under intense strain from a fast-growing population, and the steady arrival of new immigrants has tended to accentuate that strain.

But Mr. Schilly's words also illustrated the political reality that Mr. Schroeder's coalition is very much a work in progress, full of rough edges, murky policies and ominous strains.

■ Immigration Debate Heats Up

Mr. Schroeder was criticized by the newspaper Bild.

FRANCE: Limits of Charity

Continued from Page 1

icans are good philanthropists even though they think socialism is a dirty word.

A French foundation executive, who did not wish to be named, scathingly framed the historic assumption behind this habit: "Private money is impure, it's immoral. Only the state has pure money."

Why this is so is a matter of debate and speculation among France's vigorous community of philanthropic, charitable and humanitarian activists. They lament that a society enlightened enough to have invented Doctors Without Borders and Doctors of the World and to have pioneered programs to feed the homeless from restaurant kitchens should be, on average, less generous than other Western countries.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, they lay much of the blame at the feet of the state, and notably the French tax system, which offers feeble incentives for giving.

Tax deductions for charitable contributions in France are limited to 6 percent of annual taxable income (the figure is 50 percent in the United States). The deduction for most gifts to nonprofit organizations is 50 percent; a two-year-old revision of the tax code offers 60 percent deductions for contributions to associations that feed, clothe and doctor the poor. But even those deductions are limited to annual gifts under 2,000 francs, or about \$400.

The attractions of a 60 percent deduction, according to an analysis of the latest available information, for 1996, have meant handsome benefits for those nonprofit groups that help the neediest. But, perversely, that sector apparently has drawn off donations that used to go to other nonprofits, such as cultural, sporting, environmental and professional groups whose donors are entitled only to 50 percent deductions.

The average French gift to a nonprofit organization is about \$120 a year. The number of donors has slid gradually



Ali, a homeless man who lives under a Paris highway bridge, drinking donated soup. Eight people have died in the recent French cold spell.

during the 1990s, while the number of people volunteering their time to charities and other such organizations has gradually increased.

In an interview, Marc Gentilini, president of the French Red Cross, offered a blunt assessment of the problem: "The French state is incapable of encouraging giving. Giving is suspect."

He attributes this to an institutional obsession with "fault-finding" — the citizen who wants to make a contribution is assumed to be dishonest, and he has to prove his honesty. This doesn't promote citizenship, and it doesn't promote charity.

Jacques Malet, who conducted a series of recent studies of French giving habits for the Fondation de France, the umbrella association that advises nonprofits here, said there is another element of the French income tax system that discourages giving.

Only about half of French households have income levels that require them to pay taxes (as distinct from a vast array of supplementary "social charges" that cover health care, retirement and such). For the half of the population that are not taxpayers, there is no incentive at all to give to charity or church — other than simple altruism, that is.

Because Mr. Malet's studies rely on information provided by tax inspectors, they cannot assess what is reported a large habit of generosity by French people of modest means. In France, as in the United States, the less wealthy give greater proportions of their income to nonprofits of all kinds, and to charities especially, than those at the upper end of the income scale. The closer you are to neediness, those who study these habits explain, the more likely you are to be generous.

A more prosaic factor in dismal giving trends here was a massive embezzlement scandal at the heart of France's largest cancer research organization in 1996. The organization's contributions fell off by more than half the following year, and other French nonprofits have been affected by rekindled public mistrust in a sector's capacity to manage their contributions honestly and effectively.

Mr. Gentilini, Mr. Malet and others also reflected on another trend they find disturbing: The few people who make tax-deductible gifts, about one-quarter of the one-half of the population who pay taxes here, are inundated with mailings and other competing appeals to their generosity.

■ Jacques Malet, who conducted a series of recent studies of French giving habits for the Fondation de France, the umbrella association that advises nonprofits here, said there is another element of the French income tax system that discourages giving.

"Let us not underestimate how far we have come, and let us agree that we have come too far to go back now," he said, seeming also to be speaking directly to the IRA, which has refused to disarm, when he added it was "time for the gun and the threat of the gun to be taken out of politics once and for all; for decommissioning to start."

"I am not asking anyone to surrender," he said. "I am asking everyone to declare the victory of peace."

Decommissioning is Ulsterpeak for disarmament.

The IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, insist, accurately, that the peace agreement specifies only that disarmament will take place by the spring of 2000. But leaders of Northern Ireland's Protestant majority insist that some disarmament must start soon, before Sinn Fein is allowed to participate fully in the new gov-

BLAIR: Prime Minister Makes Historic Plea for Peace in Irish Parliament

Continued from Page 1

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"The old ways are changing between London and Dublin," he continued. "And this can spur the change and healing in Northern Ireland, too. The old notions of Unionists' supremacy and of narrow nationalism are gradually having their fingers prised from their grip on the future."

Only a small minority of the Irish lawmakers can speak Gaelic, one of the two official national languages, but most know enough to applaud Mr. Blair's attempt, when he said: "Gaeilge mairt agaibh," roughly, "From the bottom of my heart."

They also enjoyed the prime minister's statement that, "Ireland, as you may know, is in my blood."

"No one should ignore the injustices of the past, or the lessons of history. But too often our one person's history has been another person's myth."

"Donegal above her grandmother's hardware shop. She lived there as a child, started school there and only moved when her father died, her mother remarried and they crossed the water to Glasgow."

Cokie Roberts for Rotterdam?

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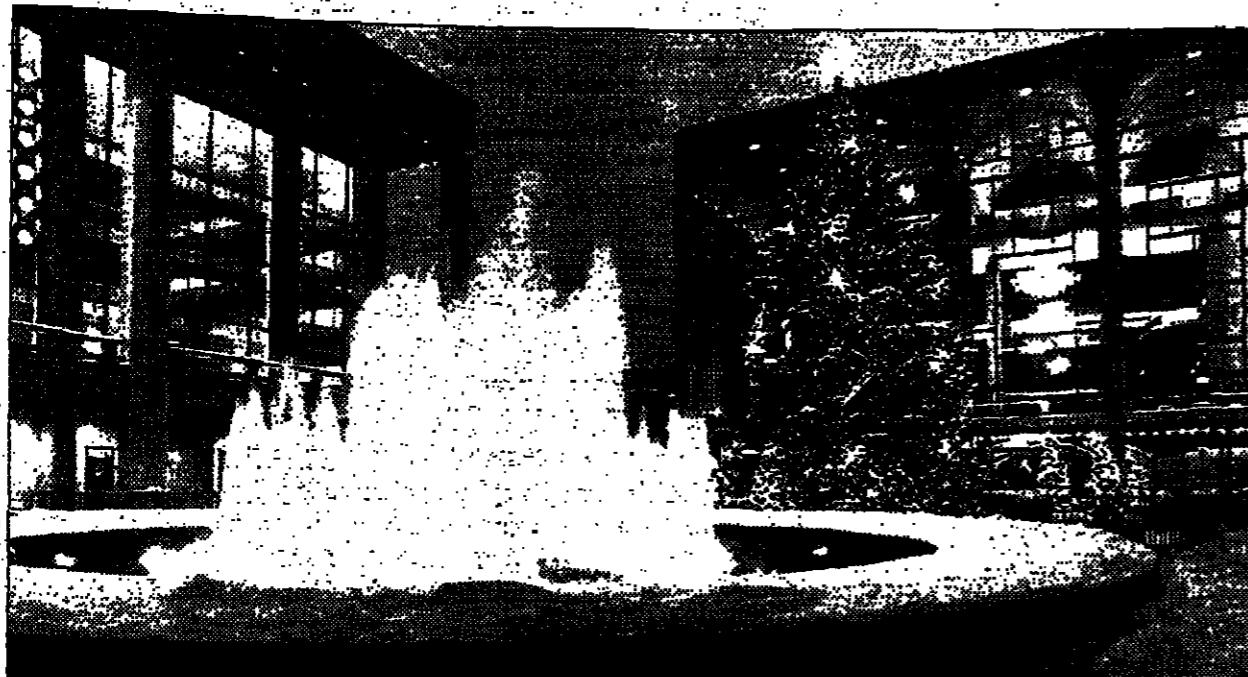
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by a bar...

HOLIDAYS IN NEW YORK



The annual tree lighting at Lincoln Center will take place on Dec. 3. Beverly Sills, chairwoman of Lincoln Center, hosts the festivities.

EVENTS FOR CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Always exciting, New York puts its best face forward for the holidays. A stroll down Fifth Avenue from 59th Street typifies the kind of delights that greet visitors. The world's largest menorah, an electrically lit behemoth commemorating the festival of lights, faces FAO Schwarz, the world's most famous toy store. At 57th Street, giant snowflake beckons shoppers to the festive decorations in windows of nearby stores like Tiffany and Cartier.

A block away, window shoppers at Barneys can see what legendary window dresser Simon Doonan has dreamed up

this year (his most notorious display: a Simpson's Nativity). Further down, a huge decorated spruce tree towers over the ice skaters below at Rockefeller Center. Even the majestic Public Library at 42nd Street gets into the spirit, with giant wreaths around the guardian stone lions at the entrance.

Everything about New York seems more festive at this time of year, from the quiet, meandering streets of Greenwich Village to the pulsating nightclubs in West Chelsea.

Listed here are highlights of what's happening around town over the next weeks.

- Dec. 3: Tree lighting: The Lincoln Center tree lighting is always a popular event, partly because performers like vibist legend Lionel Hampton show up to provide music and carols, along with characters from "Sesame Street" and a host of others. Lincoln Center Plaza.

- Dec. 4-6: Holiday crafts: The Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue is the site for the nation's premier crafts fair. Tel.: 1 800 649 0279 (in the United States).

- Dec. 5: "Amahl and the Night Visitors": The Little Orchestra Society performs Menotti's children's opera about the Three Wise Men — with a top ticket of only \$35. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 971 9500.

- Dec. 6: "A Joyous Christmas Concert": The Choir of St. Bartholomew's Church and American Boychoir perform carols in this magnificent Midtown landmark. Tel.: 1 212 378 0248.

- Dec. 12-13: "A Baroque Holiday": The New York Chamber Music Symphony performs holiday favorites. Alice Tully Hall. Tel.: 1 212 262 6927.

- Dec. 13: "Holidays": The Boys Choir of Harlem sings with the New York Philharmonic. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

- Dec. 13: "Holiday Four": A look at all of the passions at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden: and heavenly concert by the Tutti Harps group. Tel.: 1 718 622 4433.

- Dec. 17: "A Cathedral Christmas": Excerpts from the "Messiah" and a carol sing-along at the world's largest Gothic cathedral, St. John the Divine. Tel.: 1 212 316 7449.

- Dec. 18: "The Messiah": You've never really heard it until you've heard it ringing off the walls of St. John the Divine. Tel.: 1 212 316 7540.

- Dec. 18-19: "A Pops Holiday Celebration": Jazz great Skitch Henderson leads a concert of hum-along favorites. Carnegie Hall. Tel.: 1 212 903 9750.

- Dec. 21: "Holiday Spirit from England": The King's Singers perform madrigals. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

- Dec. 23: "Too Hot to Handel": An update of Handel's "Messiah". Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

- Dec. 27: "Klezmerfest": If you've never heard this jazzy traditional Jewish music, catch the New York Philharmonic

jazzing with the Klezmer Conservatory Band. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

- Dec. 31: Midnight run: Believe it or not, thousands of people love to dress in outrageous costumes, including black ties and tails, for a foot race through Central Park. Tavern on the Green. Tel.: 1 212 860 4455.

- Dec. 31: "The Viennese Tradition": The New York Philharmonic performs waltzes and selections from "Der Rosenkavalier" and "Die Fledermaus" under Kurt Masur's baton in a New Year's Eve gala, with featured soprano Deborah Voigt. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

- Through Jan. 3: "The Nutcracker": George Balanchine's definitive staging of the Christmas classic for the New York City Ballet makes its annual appearance. New York State Theater. Tel.: 1 212 875 5570.

- Through Jan. 7: "Christmas Spectacular": Radio City's world-famous extravaganza, with full-life Nativity, razzle-dazzle special effects and the Rockettes in a high-kicking "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers." Radio City Music Hall. Tel.: 1 212 247 4777.

- Through Jan. 10: The Big Apple Circus: For three months, Damrosch Park in Lincoln Center becomes the city's resident circus. Tel.: 1 212 268 2500.

- Through Jan. 10: Solstice Garden: The Conservatory Garden of the New York Botanical Garden becomes a winter fantasy, with rows of intricately lit pear trees leading to hedges fashioned from dry plants and a Gozzoli Tree with gilded fruit and marble orbs.

- Through Jan. 10: Christmas crèche: Dozens of Neapolitan crèche figures adorn a large spruce in the center of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval collection. With Rockefeller Center, this is the city's most popular Christmas attraction. Tel.: 1 212 535 7710.

NEW YORK ON THE WEB

- <http://www.nyvisit.com>: The New York Convention and Visitors Bureau's site includes information on hotels, conventions and more. Hyperlinks offer a range of New York City-related sites.

- <http://www.nytoday.com/>: Online since June, this site by The New York Times offers information on events, arts and entertainment, restaurants, shopping, sports and leisure.

- <http://newyork.citysearch.com/>: The site has listings for arts and entertainment, restaurants and hotels, shopping and services as well as several search options.

- <http://timetopia.citysearch.com>: Time Out New York is the most comprehensive local guide — in fact, it's a good idea to pick it up on a newsstand after arriving in town — and the Web site complements the weekly's listings.



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OPINION/LETTERS

Why Does America Resist Prosecution of Tyrants?

By Kenneth Roth

NEW YORK — This has been a bad year for tyrants. War crimes courts for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia are up and running. A treaty establishing a permanent international criminal court won support this summer. Now Augusto Pinochet, who epitomizes the use of political violence to gain power, has found that his self-conferred amnesty extends no farther than the reach of his army's guns.

In a landmark ruling on Wednesday, the British Law Lords rejected immunity for the former Chilean dictator, giving the green light for his extradition to Spain.

Any human rights criminal surveying the scene would conclude that his prospects were dimming. Symbols of this new legal order include Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, the mastermind of the Rwandan genocide, who fled to Cameroon only to be arrested and surrendered to the international tribunal, and Abdullah Ocalan, the murderous Kurdish rebel leader, who has had to flee from Syria to Russia to Italy, where he now faces the possibility of trial or extradition for his war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The U.S. government has been ambivalent about the changing landscape of international justice. It supports the Rwandan and Yugoslav tribunals. But it was one of only seven governments — including those of Iraq, Libya and Sudan — to vote against the

international court. And it remained disappointingly silent during the critical weeks before the Law Lords decided whether General Pinochet could be extradited to Spain.

Washington's disquiet has two principal sources. First, it fears that these legal developments might unfairly jeopardize Americans. Second, it worries that they might make it more difficult to reach peace agreements or to persuade tyrants to step down. Neither fear is justified.

Some crimes are so heinous that those responsible can be tried anywhere. But the crimes subject to universal jurisdiction are limited to the most severe atrocities — offenses such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Other human rights violations such as censorship, discrimination and restrictions on labor rights, while contemptible, do not give rise to universal jurisdiction, meaning that the people who commit them are not subject to international justice.

The crime of universal jurisdiction is clearly defined. Genocide and war crimes are spelled out in treaties. Crimes against humanity were defined at Nuremberg and in subsequent court rulings to involve certain severe acts of violence that are widespread or systematic, whether committed through peacetime repression or in time of war.

Clearly it is not U.S. policy to



By ALAN D. SMITH

commit these horrendous crimes. So who should fear prosecution? Despots such as Idi Amin of Uganda, Raoul Cedras of Haiti, Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, José Efraim Rios Montt of Guatemala, even Fidel Castro of Cuba (for the many summary executions he ordered shortly after assuming power).

But will the concept be used to harass democratic leaders who have at worst a few human rights peccadilloes to their record? No. Universal jurisdiction does not extend that far, and there is no prospect that will.

Some fear that Pinochet-like prosecutions will upset democratic transitions. But General Pinochet's arrest has not dis-

turbed Chilean democracy. Indeed, the elected president felt that democracy was so secure that he left the country at the height of the drama for a trade mission.

The Dayton peace accord shows that it is possible to negotiate peace with war criminals — in that case, President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia — without granting them amnesty from prosecution. Indeed, the indictment of Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, by marginalizing them politically, helped make the accord possible.

Won't some tyrants cling to power rather than risk prosecution? The truth is, most dictators only give up power when the

erosion of their domestic and international support makes it impossible for them to maintain power. Efforts to prosecute them for their crimes will hasten that process of delegitimization.

What will make the system of international justice work is multilateral muscle. France, Switzerland and Belgium now have backed up Spain with extradition warrants for General Pinochet. The United States needs to state clearly and publicly that it too supports the idea of holding tyrants accountable for their crimes.

The writer is executive director of Human Rights Watch. He contributed this comment to *The Washington Post*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clinton and the 1996 Election

In "Clinton's Highest Crime: Stealing the '96 Election" (*Opinion*, Nov. 24), William Safire has framed the Clinton scandal machine in the proper context.

Mr. Starr's tactical blunder was to assume that the public shared his moral outrage. But the president's sycophants have succeeded in defining the Lewinsky matter as consensual sex between two adults, which strictly speaking it was not, and as an offense about which any gentleman would lie. And Mr. Starr therefore fails to justify the harsh penalty of removal from office. Bill Clinton's defenders also argue that Republican extremists will stop at nothing

to reverse the electoral will of the American public. But, if Mr. Safire is correct, then the electoral will of the American people was criminally obtained.

Regardless of whether the disclosure of Mr. Clinton's abuses would have produced a different election result, this corruption sullies American democracy.

JIM FISHER,

Wassenaar, Netherlands.

As I recall, Mr. Clinton outpolled Bob Dole quite handily in the 1996 election. Further, he has been and continues to be a better president than Mr. Dole could have been. I wish people like Mr. Safire and Kenneth Starr could understand that their

disliking a person, or even their serious moral opposition to a person's manner, thoughts, words, deeds, clothing or success, does not give them leave to distort truth, due process or civility in their zeal to bring about that person's destruction.

JEREMY SAXON,

Prague.

Kissinger and Pinochet

In response to "U.K. Lords Rule Against Pinochet" (Nov. 26):

With the detention of Augusto Pinochet and the prospects of a world community that takes greater responsibility with respect to human rights violators, one won-

ders what might happen to Henry Kissinger, one of the architects of the coup that brought Mr. Pinochet to power. What will become of him when next he ventures beyond the borders of the United States?

Perhaps he could be both a star witness and a co-defendant in a Pinochet trial?

MICHAEL F. DUNN,

Copenhagen.

Nothing to Celebrate

In response to "Curbs End Hunger Strike" (Nov. 25):

What a shame.

BRIAN J. CAMPBELL,

Wechelderzande, Belgium.

than paying to be slowly steamed into oblivion.

Then the man in front of you pushes his seat back into your knees. You are now jammed into the thick, heat-radiating padding of your chair. Every inch of your body is in contact with some dense, hot fabric.

It is 10 minutes past departure time. You begin to fantasize about the oxygen mask in the panel above you. What if it were suddenly sprung free? Would the oxygen flowing from the mask be cool?

All at once the pilot comes on. His voice, incongruously, is cheery. He says that we must have noticed "the fellows" up front.

There are a few technical matters being attended to. Nothing serious. The delay shouldn't be long — maybe 20 minutes. (TWENTY MINUTES! Would he call 20 minutes in hell brief?)

"We invite you to sit back and relax," he says.

Sit back and relax! The man is utterly heedless of the stupefied misery of the hordes arrayed in serried ranks behind him.

The passengers paw weakly, ineffectually, at the little nozzles above them. Nothing is emerging now. The air is stilling. From time to time, someone throws a pleading eye at a passing flight attendant. They walk briskly by. One stops briefly to offer a forced, "Don't you worry: Once the engines begin ..."

At long last, unexpectedly, salvation comes. "Arm doors for departure," says the loudspeaker. Our release is at hand. The engines start up. Cool air flows fast and forceful from above. The passengers awaken like fairy tale princesses from a deep sleep.

Chatter begins. Books come up from their supine position in laps.

We have been imprisoned, but now we are free. Drinks will come, movies will be shown, food (well, something, anyway) will be served. We will be on our way, and we will forget our misery.

But what about next time? The notes for this column are on a Northwest Airlines ticket folder.

First a brave few, soon all of them, row by row, each breaking the bonds and springing free. A hopeful feeling arises in your breast as you consider this rebellion, the rightness of it — surely a more logical response

One Traveler's Fantasy: An 'In-Flight' Rebellion

By Geneva Overholser

ON THE TARMAC. Anywhere — You are deep in the center of a very large aircraft, waiting to take off.

You were engulfed, when you entered the plane, by a cloud of very hot, moist air. You noticed that nothing was stirring.

The other passengers were oddly quiet: Slack, semiconscious, they seemed somehow oppressed. You took your seat — a middle seat.

Now, a new passenger boards. Not yet acculturated, she sizes up the soporific state of the plane's

MEANWHILE

interior and its occupants, and opus for humor: "Are they pumping heat into this thing?" she cracks.

No one laughs.

The woman next to you is very large. Her generous hip borders yours beneath the armrest — on which her arm rests. She has on a flowing jacket, which flows over the armrest onto your forearm.

The man on the other side is larger still. He has on a thick tweedy jacket, the arm of which occupies the other armrest. He is snoring lightly. Now and then he rouses himself, looks around and gives an aggrieved sigh before lapsing back into his stupor. The sighs feel cool on your hand.

His seems to be the right response to the ordeal you are all being subjected to. It is impossible to read, to write, to do anything you would normally do on a plane. It is impossible even to think clearly. Hibernating seems the best option.

Positioning your face under the weak stream of air leaking from the overhead nozzle, you try to enter that state. Your head lolls.

But soon, despite your best efforts, an alternative form of behavior begins to take shape in your mind. A compulsion is building. You picture yourself pulling out of your sluggish state, unbuckling your seat belt, springing up and shouting: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

You imagine your cabinmates joining you in this revolution.

First a brave few, soon all of them, row by row, each breaking the bonds and springing free. A hopeful feeling arises in your breast as you consider this rebellion, the rightness of it — surely a more logical response

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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

WHIST is the ancestor game of bridge, and two centuries ago Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, a Foreign Minister for various French governments, including that of Napoleon, was an enthusiast. He once asked a young man if he enjoyed whist, and on receiving a negative answer showed dismay: "What a dull old age you are saving up for yourself."

Today, many older people would agree with that assessment. At a stage in life when many activities are more difficult, a regular bridge game is something to look forward to. It provides intellectual exercise in a social setting, with verbal and mathematical skills getting a workout.

One of the oldest active players in the New York area is Dr. Sidney Sadolsky of Riverdale, the Bronx, who celebrated his 95th birthday in September. Recently, playing NORTH (D)

After a low club lead he captured the jack with the king. Making eight tricks was fairly easy, but he wanted the overtrick that would furnish match points. The normal play in diamonds was to cash the ace, but he chose to lead low. West took the king and cashed the ace-queen of clubs in the hope of running the suit. East discarded the heart nine, and West shifted to that suit.

South captured the heart queen with the ace and cashed the diamond ace, uncovering the bid split. The position was now as shown at right.

South now cashed his club nine, throwing a spade from the dummy, and East was finished. A diamond discard would give South two extra tricks, and a major-suit discard would set up a winner for a second squeeze.

Dr. Sadolsky made 10 tricks, and may well be the first nonagenarian to execute a progressive squeeze to gain two tricks.

WEST EAST

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| ♦ 9 6 3 | ♦ 10 5 4 | ♦ 9 K |
| ♦ A K Q 7 | ♦ A K Q 7 | ♦ J 10 9 |
| ♦ A 4 2 | ♦ A 4 2 | ♦ 8 |
| | | |

Leisure

MORROW!
MONDAY!

India's Painted Mansions

The Power and Faded Glory of Shekhawati

By Celia W. Dugger
New York Times Service

MANDAWA, India — The promise of an oasis in the Thar desert of Rajasthan lured us off the beaten path. A travel agent assured me and my family that a four-hour drive would take us from New Delhi to the small town of Mandawa. Once there, we would stay in an enchanting castle from the time of the maharajahs and wander through crumbling mansions richly adorned with images of kings and Hindu gods, granaries and Victorian touring cars.

But four hours into the bone-rattling journey, Mandawa was still nowhere in sight, and it began to seem more mirage than oasis. After the state of Haryana, into Rajasthan, the roads became even more rutted and pitted. Loping caravans of camels and herds of sheep made picturesque roadblocks that regularly challenged the braking skills of our driver, Pan Singh. The sage and our landscape was only occasionally brightened by yellow wildflowers and the crimson turbans of men trudging along the roadside.

Finally, six and a half hours after we set out, we arrived in Mandawa, in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan, several hours' drive from the state's usual tourist draws, or an airport, for that matter. As we pulled into the grand square of Castle Mandawa, once the home of Rajput royalty and since 1980 a hotel for the intrepid, we felt that we should have been riding in on elephants instead of clambering out of an Isuzu Trooper. To our great relief, the place immediately began to cast a spell on us all.

We went first to our suite, reached by a series of narrow stairways, courtyards and passages. It was romance incarnate. A four-poster bed was surrounded by

scalloped, alabaster arches and enclosed by lace curtains that fluttered in a breeze cast by a ceiling fan. A big window seat, which looked out over the square, made the perfect spot to read a book.

Then it was back to the colonial veranda. There, courtly young men dressed in white kurta pajamas served us scrambled eggs, toast, french fries and fresh lime sodas. Fortified and with dusk nearing, we set out for a walk, led by Tejpal Singh, a guide on the Castle's staff. We threaded our way along winding, sandy alleyways past the once magnificent havelis, stately houses built by Marwaris, the famed traders of Rajasthan, who have spread out across India and the world to become some of the subcontinent's most successful entrepreneurs. Originally, they profited from the camel caravans that passed through Shekhawati along the great trading routes bearing spices and sandalwood, silks and saffron.

The local merchants — upper-caste Hindus and Jains — who built the havelis in the 19th century hired artists to paint them with images whimsical, fantastical, erotic and sacred. The mansions have an abandoned, decayed look now, Venetian in the grandeur of their faded glory. The fierce, sandy desert winds, the monsoons and time itself have effaced some of the paintings and soiled the indigos, greens and reds.

The descendants of these rich men now live in Calcutta and Bombay. The havelis are mainly inhabited by aging chowkidars, or caretakers, and their extended families, who have often resided in them for 50 years or more. They welcome tourists and are grateful to those who offer a modest tip for the privilege of a peek inside.

To walk through Mandawa is to step back in time. There are very few cars or trucks. Women on foot balance wiry

stacks of kindling on their heads. The stucco village houses are washed in pastels of sky blue, mint and rose.

On the exterior wall of the Ladia Haveli, on the square, a steam train puffed along under a large painting of an elephant, which had a small barred window cut away in its belly for the haveli's residents to peer through. At the Saraf Haveli, where two barefoot girls in grimy party dresses scampered after each other, the grubby walls of the interior courtyards had fanciful paintings of a motor car and a flying machine.

THREE KILOS OF GOLD And in the Junjhunuwala Haveli, the courtyard was strewn with clotheslines draped with ancient sheets, emerald and pink saris and men's trousers. The owner, Rajhuwar Dayal, a clothing retailer, welcomed us into a spacious, sensuously painted-encrusted room. "There are three kilos of gold in the paintings," he said. He proudly waved to an image of a blue-faced Krishna dancing with his wife. The room was cast in a warm glow from small stained-glass windows of lime green, royal blue and deep red. Their jewel tones echoing the fabulous royal ornaments once made for the princely courts of an earlier era.

Back at the Castle, we headed to a heavily interior courtyard that had been turned into a magical stage set for dinner. Tables laid with red tablecloths and flickering candles were scattered across the moonlit lawn. Lights in freestanding stone containers edged the balconies and walkways.

Guests ate from a plentiful Indian buffet and watched a campy, entertaining sideshow that thrilled the Italian, French and German tourists, their cameras snapping and video cameras whirring. A beautiful dancer in flowing orange chiffon picked up a 100-rupee



Mandawa haveli, many of which were built in the 19th century and painted with images whimsical, erotic or sacred.

note on the ground with her teeth and never upset the tower of seven pots that teetered on her head. A hammy young man blew great puffs of fire from his mouth, like the Wizard of Oz. And a boy danced with a python around his neck.

Kesri Singh, the imposing, genial proprietor, who is himself a descendant of the raja of Mandawa, opened the castle to visitors in 1980 with just six rooms, and has since renovated 65 more, some of which used to be stables for the horses. No one, he told us, is trying to preserve the havelis as that are the area's biggest tourist draw. "This area is quite neglected," he said. "It has no powerful spokesman."

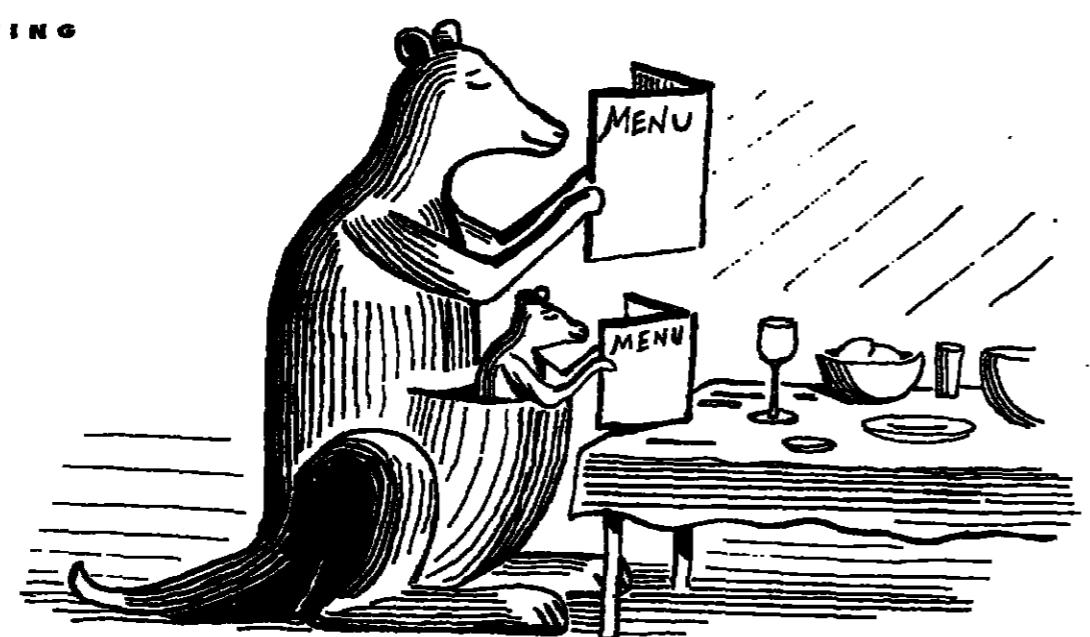
The next morning, we decided to take a look at Fatehpur, another town known for its havelis. "This boy will take you," Kesri said, gesturing to a middle-aged man who wore his Dick Dastardly mustache with a flourish. We all climbed into the Trooper for the 40-minute ride to Fatehpur along a single-lane road. Many a jeep and tourist bus, heavy with Indian passengers on their rooftops, hurtled past us.

But many of the havelis are in a terrible state of decline. We stood opposite an abandoned one, its doors blocked by piles of garbage and earth, its fine stone screens almost invisible beneath a thick coating of grime. "There are 100 havelis in Fatehpur," said Ridmal Rajput, a young guide who had attached himself to us, "and 75 are locked up."

At the Bhaisamal Kedia Haveli, the chowkidar, Bhanwar Singh, showed us portraits of Queen Victoria and King George in the entry foyer. We found that almost every block boasted a haveli. The Nan Lal Dev Haveli boasts paintings on glass of mustachioed maharajahs; the Bhagat Ram Jalal Haveli, long-necked camels galloped across the walls.

But many of the havelis are in a terrible state of decline. We stood opposite an abandoned one, its doors blocked by piles of garbage and earth, its fine stone screens almost invisible beneath a thick coating of grime. "There are 100 havelis in Fatehpur," said Ridmal Rajput, a young guide who had attached himself to us, "and 75 are locked up."

DINING



David Sarnoff/IHT

A Defining Moment in Food

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

SYDNEY — If I am fortunate, it happens about once a year. It is what I have come to call the Defining Moment in food. I all but stop midbite, and realize that I am in the presence of greatness. The room shakes. The most recent defining moment came in the Grange Restaurant in the Hilton International Hotel in Adelaide, Australia.

During a monthlong dining tour that included some of the best spots in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, it was the Malaysian-born Chinese chef Cheong Liew's love poem for the palate that seemed to rocket me to another planet.

During the six-course tasting menu,

Iewed — who has been credited with the fusion of Eastern and Western flavors during the 1970s — provided food that fed the spirit, the soul, the body, and with each dish-and-wine pairing, I fell as though I was in the privileged presence of a genius who had complete mastery and control of his ingredients.

Like a musician with perfect pitch, this chef has an uncanny talent for balance, strength, harmony, nourishment. His food, which applies Asian methods to European food, has an extraordinary density of flavor, contrast of texture and a way of illuminating each ingredient without camouflaging the others.

So, his food is immensely satisfying. (When Stephanie Alexander, a top Australian chef, tasted Liew's food for the first time she announced "I had just better stop cooking.")

SHARK IN A POUCH

Such bold and complex dishes as shark's-fin pouch in venison consomme, spiced with tarragon, is a perfect example of his creative genius: A pasta-pouch filled with a sherry-tinged shark's-fin soup floats atop a rich venison consomme.

One is advised to consume most of the warming consomme first, then burst the pasta pouch filled with the soup, wild mushrooms, chicken and ginger. A garnish of tarragon makes this the perfect yin-yang dish with the heat of the game and ginger, the coolness of shark's fin in a single, dramatic bite. Set off with a glass of Lustau Jaraiza Fino sherry, the dish creates a complete circle of flavors.

Another adventurous dish, red roas-

ted barramundi (a firm Australian fish) teamed up with green chili, coriander, snow-pea shoots and calamari shavings, makes for a memorable meal that pleases all the senses, with its herbal aroma, dense flavor, visual appeal and burst of sensations. You could almost hear the sound of the sea in the dish. Paired with an Evans and Tate semillon, it was a dish to savor and remember.

Using Liew's romantic, almost ornate cuisine as a starting point, one can easily see that Australia — which inherited a drab Anglo-Saxon diet not at all fitting to the island's climate or ethnic diversity — is in full flourish.

With a strong foundation of adventurous chefs, eager diners and a wildly expanding wine industry, there is nothing to hold Australia back. A visit 10 years ago covering the same territory suggested that there was promise. Today's Australian cuisine surpasses that promise.

The energy and sense of humor suggest that anything is possible here. Take the names of modern Australian restaurants — Salt, Dish, Tables, The Loose Box, MG Garage (yes, in an auto showroom) Fuel (yes, in a gas station), Cafe Sweethearts, France Souri, J'Febs (for the initials of the names of the owner's five children), Nudel Bar, Fishface, The Raving Prawn, The Little Snail. Medium Rare — and you see this is a nation that does not take itself too seriously.

The names of Australia's wines tell a lot about the Australian sense of humor as well as lightheaded irreverence: RBJ Theological, Dead Man's Hill gewurztraminer, Diva sangiovese, Abbott's Prayer merlot cabernet, Nine Popes, Chapel Hill The Vicar, Hill of Grace. But it is no laughing matter that Australia boasts some 800 wineries, most producing very high-quality wines. By the year 2010 Australia hopes to produce 15 percent of the world market in volume (and more by value) putting it fourth behind Spain, France and Italy.

Today one finds a lot of substance in Oz. As the Australian food writer Cherry Ripe points out, Australia is a European culture in an Asian-Pacific location. With chefs whose heritage include Malaysian, Japanese, French, British, Greek, Italian and native Australian, true fusion cuisine is not only possible but perfectly natural. The chefs are also in the midst of creating their own trademark style, one that reflects the ethnic populations, the seasons, the oceans, the hills and the lifestyles of this vast nation.

As with much of the rest of the mod-

ern world, the food of Australia is ingredient-driven, and by that I mean that the chef chooses to honor the prawns from the sea, the chicken from the barnyard, the fruits and vegetables from the garden, making them taste as much like themselves as humanly possible.

There is an Australian look to food as well, large white plates serving as lovely, clean palettes for the chef's artistry. The Australians understand wine and food pairing better than most, with perfect pairings almost every time.

As the Australian food authority Maggie Beer noted, "We are learning from other countries' mistakes." And so this ecologically aware nation that is banning the caviar of the protected sturgeon, and pioneering fish farming as the waters' bounty is increasingly depleted, is also creating a lively exchange between growers and restaurateurs, experimenting but with an intelligent eye.

Traveling from city to city, it was

clear that chefs leave no stone unturned.

They are unrestrained by tradition and offer a cuisine that is at once vibrant, fresh, innovative and well crafted.

They do make mistakes. All too often, I found chefs insisting on an

East-meets-West cuisine when they had no technical ability to carry it out. It seemed that menus were filled with such items as Vietnamese Pho soup or Indian curry or Japanese sushi because the chef assumed diners expected this exotic blend. All too often, the dishes fell flat and were far less exciting than the real thing in an ethnic restaurant.

I hope to grab those jars of truffle oil from every Australian chef's hands: The powerful oil is used in excess, often marinating otherwise excellent dishes. Likewise, such appealing ingredients as auro (almost always served with indigestible, weed-like stems intact) are used as a crutch, and Western-style breads often appeared simply awkward in many fusion menus.

Some practices — such as opening oysters beforehand and washing them under running water — seem simply naive and lazy. And a government that bans the creation and import of raw-milk cheeses is surely misguided.

The high praise is fitting for perhaps only a small portion of restaurants. As Alexander remarked: "In Australia, if you know what you are doing, you can have the best of everything every day. But you will be alone." The circle, it is clear, needs to be enlarged.

Around the Tables of Australia

International Herald Tribune

The following is a list of the best restaurants visited during a month-long tour, with notes on some favorite dishes.

PERTH

The Loose Box Restaurant, 6825 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring. Tel: (61-8) 9295-1787.

If Michel gave stars in Australia, Alain Fabregues' The Loose Box would have three. It is the epitome of French perfection and attention to detail. I loved the colorful goat cheese, truffle, mushroom, eggplant, tomato and capsicum terrine for its brilliant flavors and welcoming texture.

Fraser's, Fraser Avenue, King's Park, West Perth. Tel: (8) 9481-7100.

Chris Taylor of the welcoming Fraser's, in the center of a lovely park, offers honest fare. Such dishes as his char-grilled dhufish fillet with lemon, extra virgin olive oil and parsley show how the chef wisely allows perfectly chosen ingredients to speak for themselves.

ADELAIDE

Universal Wine Bar, 285 Rundle St., Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8232-5000; fax: (8) 8232-5757; e-mail: universal@port.net.au

A fine, casual wine bar for sampling the nation's best wines. Try anything the waiter suggests, or, if they are on the list that day, go for one of those big Rhone-style reds, such as the powerful RBJ Theological mourvredre grenache or Charles Melton's Nine Popes, sauvignon blanc.

Charlick's Feed Store, Ebenezer Place, East End, Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8232-7566; fax: (8) 8232-7065.

This new, casual dining spot is owned by Maggie and Colin Beer, modern pioneers of the Australian food world. Try the smoked tommy ruff (sardine-size fish) with green olive and pickled lemon dressing, and sample alongside it a glass of the refreshing white Chapel Hill McLaren Vale verdetto, made from the Portuguese verdello grape with overtones of honysuckle and tropical fruits.

The Grange, Hilton International, Victoria Square, Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8217-2000.

If you have time for only one meal in Australia, head for the Grange to sample Malaysian-born Chinese chef Cheong Liew's shark's-fin pouch in venison consomme, spiced with tarragon, a dish that is filled with bravery and brilliance, or his red-roasted barramundi with green chilies, coriander, snow-pea shoots and calamari shavings, a dish with such genius you won't want to finish it, for all you'll have left is the memory.

Petaluma Bridgewater Mill, Mount Barker Road, Bridgewater. Tel: (8) 8339-3422.

The new trendy spot, with the Greek-born chef Jani Kyritis, is actually in an MG car showroom. Specialties include guinea fowl baked in clay with pancetta, mushrooms and barley pilaf, as well as many dishes with a fine, Middle Eastern touch.

BRISBANE

Two Small Rooms, 517 Milton Read, Toowong, Brisbane. Tel: (61-7) 3371-5251.

One of the best bets in Brisbane.

This trendy spot just outside Adelaia is run by the Petaluma winery and showcases its wines. Try the

their outstanding mud-crab omelette with stir-fried vegetables and spicy prawn sauce.

This is one place where I was able to get a simple roasted rack of lamb without the trimmings that camouflage the delicate flavor. Their Mandalong lambs are slaughtered at 9 months. They are weaned at 3 months and fattened on grain for better texture and flavor.

E'cco, 100 Boundary St., Brisbane. Tel: (7) 3831-8344.

Philip Johnson offers no-nonsense food in a lovely setting. He uses all the clichés in the book, but his creations manage to taste original and appealing.

Try the Moreton Bay bugs, a type of shellfish, with pine nuts and aioli; roast chicken with couscous, yogurt, artichokes and asparagus, or sand crabs with chilies and lemon oil. Save room for the Venetian espresso cake with coconut ice cream and shavings of fresh coconut.

Pier Nine Oyster Bar & Seafood Grill, Eagle Street Pier, 1 Eagle St., Brisbane. Tel: (7) 3229-2194.

This is a beautiful waterside setting for great oysters and such specials as king prawns with garlic hollandaise or Victoria black-lip mussels with ginger, chili, sweet curvy leaves and lime juice.

MELBOURNE Flower Drum, 17 Market Lane, Melbourne. Tel: (61-3) 9662-3655.

For Chinese food like you have never had before, depend on the owner Gilbert Lau to wow you with such specialties as tender baby abalone the size of an oyster, bathed in vinegar, ginger and soy. The dish was a gastronomic revelation.

Richmond Hill Cafe & Larder, 48 50 Bridge Road, Richmond. Tel: (3) 9421-2818.

Stephanie Alexander, one of Australia's top restaurateurs and food personalities, has opened this casual cafe with an exquisite cheese room, great wines and a modern menu that includes pastas, such traditional fare as boeuf à la mode and cheese plates with fruits, nuts and breads. Sunday nights are reserved for a variety of functions, such as cabaret nights and wine dinners.

MG Garage, 490 Crown St., Surry Hills, New South Wales. Tel: (2) 9383-9383.

The new trendy spot, with the Greek-born chef Jani Kyritis, is actually in an MG car showroom. Specialties include guinea fowl baked in clay with pancetta, mushrooms and

The Mighty Formaggio di Fossa

The Odoriferous Soul and Pride of a Small Italian Town

By Kate Singleton

SOGLIANO AL RUBICONE, Italy — An odoriferous soul is what distinguishes Sogliano al Rubicone from the numerous small towns that nest on the lower slopes of the Apennines facing Rimini and the Adriatic sea.

Far from causing embarrassment, the pungent, fetid smells that pervade the air, the streets and the houses have long been a source of pride and income. Indeed, in early winter people flock from far and wide to relish the cause of such overpowering olfactory assault: *formaggio di fossa*, cheese that is buried for three months in deep straw-lined pits until it ripens to a point of almost offensive maturity.

No one knows quite why or when the people of Sogliano first started storing cheese in the underground grain silos that their ancestors dug out of the tufa stone beneath their homes in medieval times.

"During the 12th century numerous castles were built in this area," said Oliver Ortolani, a town councilor who has done much to promote the fame of *formaggio di fossa* beyond these valleys, "and Sogliano itself became a fief of the Malatesta family."

Bloody quarrels often broke out between the lords of one castle and the next, and in the case of Sogliano between different branches of the same family. Certainly concealing cheese in pits was a way of ensuring that a precious source of protein never fell into enemy hands. Once the pits have been filled with freshly made cheeses they are sealed and paved over with cobbles or

brick, thus becoming invisible to the unpracticed eye."

Ortolani is steeped in knowledge of local traditions because his father used to work as an *infossatore*, or cheese burer, a job that calls for considerable skill. The shafts are bottle-shaped, around 3 meters deep and 2 meters wide. To perform their enzymatic alchemy to perfection they require special preparation. Excessive humidity and undesirable micro-organisms are eliminated by burning straws inside the pits.

Their walls are then lined with fresh straw tucked behind cane supports, while the floor is covered with boards. In this way the cheese does not come into direct contact with the tufa stone and residual whey can drain away.

The traditional day for depositing the cheeses is Aug. 16. Ideally they should contain two thirds cow's milk and one third sheep's milk, but other ratios also produce a fine cheese, as long as the pastures are good. Ortolani says: "Although connoisseurs can distinguish a pit cheese that contains a greater percentage of ewe's milk or has been seasoned earlier, what really counts is the quality of the milk. You won't get good pit-matured cheeses from herds raised intensively down on the plain and fed on grain."

The cheeses are wrapped in white calico bags marked with their weight and the owner's initials. They are packed into the pits and pressed down by foot until the shaft is full to the neck. Next comes a wooden lid, and atop this sand and the paving that lies flush with the floor or street.

For centuries the ceremonial opening of the pits took place each Nov. 25, when

farmers would return to Sogliano from the countryside to claim their goods and pay their dues. To this day the owners of the town's dozen or so active pits take a fee for maturing the cheese according to its weight. Although there are still several independent cheese makers using the pits, nowadays the bulk of the *formaggio di fossa* is handled by merchants who have understood the curious appeal of such a meaphitic gastronomic delicacy.

Demand for the cheese is becoming so widespread that the festivities surrounding the opening of the pits now stretch through the last two weekends of November to the first weekend of December. They include a market, cheese-tasting stands and special menus at local restaurants. The atmosphere is joyously rank and redolent: living history, but not for the faint of nose.

IKE all successful products, Sogliano's *formaggio di fossa* now has its imitators. The town produces about 132,000 to 154,000 pounds (60 to 70 metric tons) a year, yet pit-matured cheeses of various sorts are now found in specialty stores throughout central and northern Italy.

To protect its name and fame, the Sogliano cheese makers association is now lobbying to obtain a "Denomination of Protected Origin" label as a guarantee of authenticity. This involves circumscribing the geographical provenance of the cheese and defining its sensory qualities: the strong smell, of course, but also its sharp, distinctive flavor and its lean, crumbly consistency.

Kate Singleton is a writer based in Italy.

MOVIE GUIDE

ENEMY OF THE STATE

Directed by Tony Scott. U.S.

Though "Enemy of the State" finds a flimsy excuse for setting one scene amid lingerie models, babes have nothing to do with its notion of sex appeal. Instead, it's the gigantism that are hot in a thriller that treats technology as its biggest turn-on. High-tech surveillance ("Enhance, then forward frame by frame!") is at the heart of this latest splashy collaboration between Tony Scott and Jerry Bruckheimer ("Top Gun," "Crimson Tide"), with its premise that privacy is imperiled by runaway electronics. This much is certain: It has a hurtling pace, nonstop intensity and a stylish, appealing performance by Will Smith. As a grand old man of the thrill-happy genre, Scott gives this film a fine cast, a modicum of wit on the run and a reasonably human dimension. As Gene Hackman playing an eccentric technolgy wiz, finally admits about Smith's lawyer-turned-action hero: "Not too stupid after all." Smith plays Robert Clayton Dean, an upright and harmfully married lawyer who winds up, quicker than you can say John Grisham, being targeted, chased and spied on by ruthless forces within the National Security Agency. Needless to say, the "huh?" factor is considerable. How exactly does Dean go from peace and quiet to a scene in which he must run away from a helicopter, a truck and a train simultaneously? The screenplay by David Marconi seems to be wired with its own self-destruct mechanism, so that it works within the moment but stops making sense the minute you walk out the door. But Scott comes up with enough snazzy equipment, wild chases and explosive notions (like blowing up the original Dr. Pepper factory in Baltimore) to keep the story moving faster than the speed of scrutiny. And he does use sharp, video-influenced editing more effectively than most (though John Frankenheimer's "Ronin" achieved the same high velocity without benefit of MTV tricks). The film's juxtapositions, sharp angles, jump cuts and aerial surveillance shots (like the Gulf War) have a rhythm that suits the material. And Scott avoids touches of overkill, like pumped-up emotional heft or an overlay of musical schmaltz. The film's hoard of foxy screens, transmitters, buttonhole cameras and laptops probably deserve an acting credit of their own. (Janet Maslin, NYT)



Will Smith, left, and Gene Hackman in "Enemy of the State."

mins. Not that the humans themselves fare much better. Babe (voice by E.G. Daily) and the farm lady, Mrs. Hoggett (Magda Szubanski), have traveled to this faraway dystopia after our stout-hearted hero causes Farmer Hoggett (James Cromwell) to fall down a well and wind up in traction. They have a plan to save their heavily mortgaged acreage. Though bound for a state fair to collect a performance fee, the two are detained to this bizarre, "Brazil"-like Oz, where they befriend a troupe of circus monkeys, a chorus of cats and a disabled terrier in a doggie wheelchair. Streetwise, surly, neurotic: The creatures of this concrete jungle aren't as lovable as Babe's barnyard buddies. They're like sophisticated noir versions of the characters in "Lady and the Tramp"; they sound like jaded moths and mobsters. George Miller, who produced and co-wrote "Babe," left it to Chris Noonan to direct the 1995 Oscar nominee. But Miller, who created the "Mad Max" franchise, takes the camera into his own hands here with results that are technically sublime, but emotionally harrowing. "Babe" didn't shrink from humankind's appetite for samsa links or other unpleasant realities. But "Pig in the City" is a far Grimm tale, involving homelessness, starvation and attempted infanticide. In one instance, a pig bull becomes entangled in its leash and tumbles from a bridge, where he seemingly hangs till dead. Though the plucky potter comes to the rescue, the scene is far too long and too macabre for adults, much less wee viewers. Still, along with Ferdinand the duck, the singing mice are back with an expanded repertoire. This is hardly your same old trough of slop. Babe nonetheless prevails, demonstrating once again "how a kind and steady heart can heal a sorry world." (Rita Kempley, WP)

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY
Directed by George Miller. Australia.
No, it really makes bacon out of the little hand but the G rating of "Babe: Pig in the City" isn't exactly kosher. Unlike the warm, whimsical original "Babe" set on the Hoggetts' family farm, the darkly funny sequel takes place on the mean streets of a fantastically inventive but foreboding fairy tale city. Life there is a daily struggle for the dogs, cats and other urban creatures that have been alley-born or abandoned by their hu-

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ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

VIENNA
Kunstlerhaus, tel: (1) 52-17-404, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Jemen. Kunst und Archäologie im Land der Koenig von Saba" — items excavated in the land of the Queen of Sheba, today's Yemen. The funerary stelae and dolls, the relief panels and other items illustrate the period when Yemen became receptive to Mediterranean influences.

BRITAIN

LONDON
British Museum, tel: (171) 53-155, open daily. To Jan. 10: "Montejo to Rubens." Drawings by Titian, Correggio, Vasari and Parmigianino. Some are elaborate works, others are rapid sketches showing the creative process of the artist at work. Also, to Jan. 10: "Claude Lorrain." Twenty etchings and 80 drawings, including preparatory drawings and nature studies.

www.brit-museum.ac.uk
Tate Gallery, tel: (171) 887-8000, open daily. To Feb. 14: "Turner in the Alps." More than 65 works on paper reveal the British artist's impressions of the Alps during his first trip to continental Europe in 1802. The display also includes watercolors made upon his return to England.

www.tate.org.uk

DENMARK

HØJLEBAEK
Louisenlund Museum of Modern Art, tel: 49-19-07-19, open daily. To Feb. 7: "Frank O. Gehry." Focuses on the architect's formal concepts and working processes. Some of Gehry's most recent realizations include the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the Vitra Design Museum in Weil-am-Rhein, Germany.

www.louisenlund.dk

FRANCE

PARIS
Fondation Electricité de France, tel: 01-53-63-23-45, closed Mondays and holidays. To Jan. 17: "Fictions Intimes." Fiction in photographs, from Surrealists such as Man Ray, Hans Bellmer to real photographers such as Diane Arbus, Carter-Bresson and Doinneau. The works are mainly portraits, bodies and narrative photographs.

Petit Palais, tel: 01-42-76-65-65, closed Mondays. To Feb. 14: "Seau Assise." Paralleling the launch of the renovation campaign of the *Assise basculante* that was hit by an earthquake a year ago, the exhibition brings together paintings, religious books and implements from the Basilica Treasury.

GERMANY

DÜSSELDORF
Kunstmuseum, tel: (211) 89-92490, closed Mondays. To Jan. 24: "Angela Kauffmann: Retrospektive." More than 200 works, including 140 paintings, by the Swiss portrait and genre painter (1741-1807). Kauffmann became one of the founding members of the Royal Academy in London in



Beckmann's "Snake Charmer," on show in Jerusalem.

the 1750s, before returning to Rome where her portraits and history paintings were in demand by European nobility. The exhibition will travel to Munich.

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM
The Israel Museum, tel: (2) 5708-811, open daily. To Feb. 2: "Baccarat: L'Eclat de la Lumière." On loan from the Baccarat Museum in Paris, approximately 400 items dating back to the first objects created in the 17th century, including 70 perfume bottles.

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM
Rijksmuseum, tel: (20) 671, open daily. To Feb. 28: "Sawasa: Japanese Export Art in Black and Gold." "Sawasa" means luxury objects produced in the 17th and 18th centuries in Japan and China. These tobacco boxes, buttons, buckles and knobs for walking sticks were made from gold, bronze, lacquered in black and decorated with gilded reliefs.

ITALY

MILAN
Fundazione Prada, tel: (2) 546-70216, closed Mondays. To Jan. 6: "Sam Taylor-Wood." One of the most widely discussed exponents of "New British Art," Taylor-Wood (born 1967) is showing new large-format photographs and a video installation.

PORTUGAL

LISBON
Fundação Arpad Szemes-Vieira da Silva, tel: (1) 388-0044, closed Tuesdays and public holidays. To Jan. 31: "Alberto Giacometti." On loan from the Maeght Foundation in southern France, 19 sculptures and 20 drawings, most of them

representing the human figure. After experimenting with Cubism and Surrealism, the sculptures of the Swiss artist (1901-1966) began to take on the elongated form for which he became famous.

SOUTH KOREA

YONGBU
Ho-Am Art Museum, tel: (0335) 50-51, closed Mondays. To Dec. 31: "Auspicious Dreams: Decorative Paintings of Korea." A selection of works from the museum's expanded collection.

www.hoamuseum.org

SPAIN

BILBAO
Guggenheim Museum, tel: (94) 435-90-00, To March 7: "Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective." Highlighting his painting and sculpture, the exhibit brings together 300 works by the U.S.-born artist. It captures his practice of working in diverse mediums and presents his collaboration in the performing arts and in technology-based works.

www.m30.es/guggenheim

SWITZERLAND

LAUSANNE
Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, tel: (21) 316-34-55, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Courbet: Artist and Entrepreneur." The exhibition examines the French painter's efforts at reaching out to a public of dealers and collectors, with provocative nudes, genre figures and hunting scenes. In his landscapes, Courbet (1819-1877) followed the anti-academic attempts of plein-air painters.

UNITED STATES

BALTIMORE
Walters Art Gallery, tel: (410) 569-9000, closed Mondays. To Jan. 3: "The Invisible Made Visible: Angels from the Vatican." More than 100 paintings, sculptures and other images of angels spanning more than 2,000 years from Assyrian, Etruscan, Greek, Roman and Christian traditions. Features works by Raphael, Reni, Agnolo Rosso, Rousset and Dali.

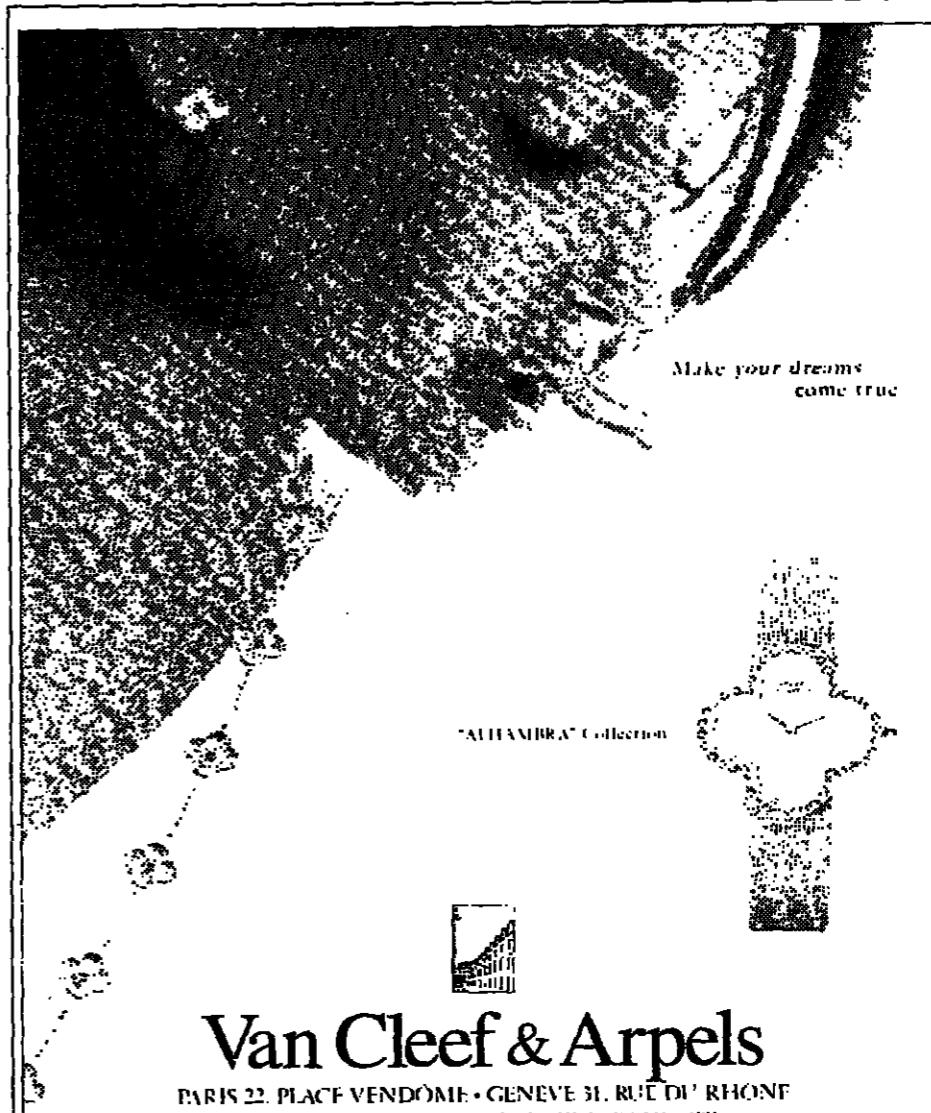
www.TheWalters.org

NEW YORK
Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. To Feb. 2: "Dubuffet to De Kooning: Expressionist Prints from Europe and America." A variety of prints by contemporaries of Jackson Pollock in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Also features works by Motherwell, Hartung, Soulages and Alechinsky.

www.moma.org

WASHINGTON
The Phillips Collection, tel: (202) 337-2151, closed Mondays. To Jan. 3: "Impressionists in Winter: Effects de Neige." Focusing on snowscapes by Monet, Sisley and Pissarro, the exhibition also includes winter landscapes by Cézanne, Renoir and Gauguin.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins



Van Cleef & Arpels

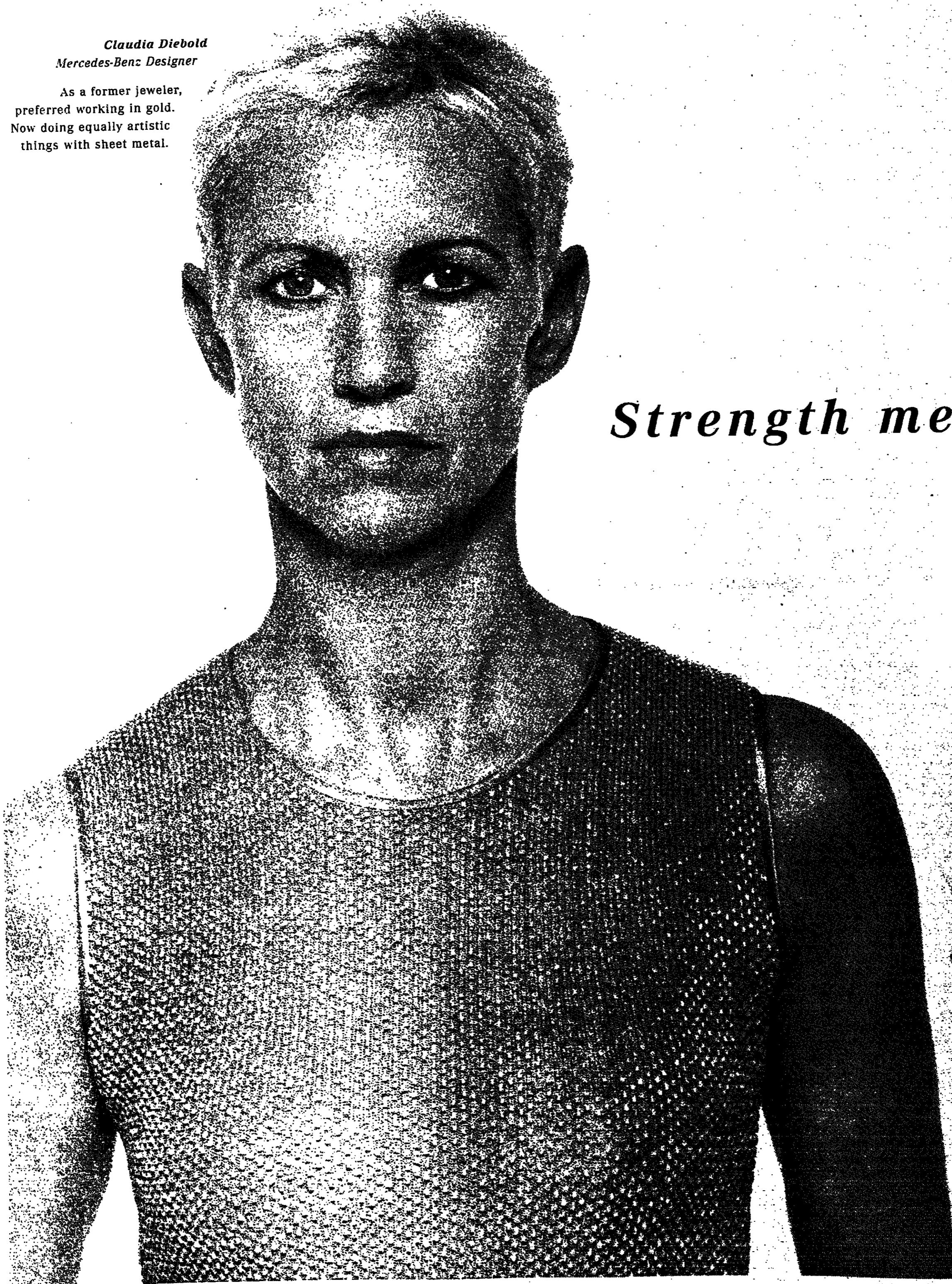
PARIS 22, PLACE VENDÔME • GENÈVE 31, RUE DU RHÔNE

LAUSANNE 10, AVENUE DES MUSÉES • MILANO 1, VIA DEL BABUINO • TORONTO 100, BLOOR ST. WEST • TORONTO 100, BLOOR ST. WEST • VANCOUVER 100, BURKE ST. • VANCOUVER 100, BURKE ST.

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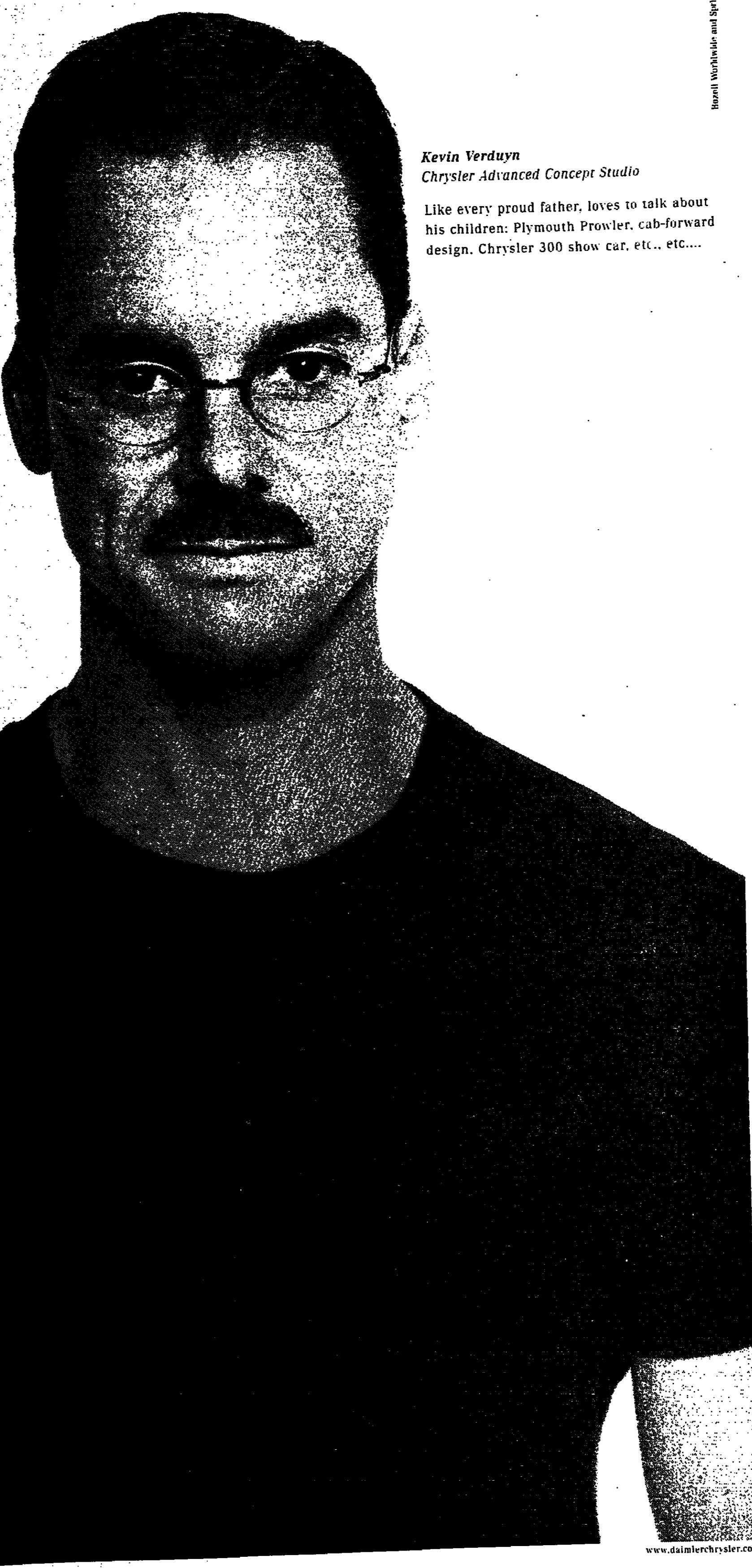


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INTERNATIONAL

Thousands Turn Out for Funeral of Iran Dissident

Copied by Our Staff Photo Dispatches

TEHRAN — Tens of thousands of mourners, some chanting anti-government slogans, gathered in Tehran on Thursday at the funeral of a murdered opposition leader and his wife.

The crowd turned the ceremony for the opposition leader, Dariush Forouhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, at the Fakhar mosque into a nationalist rally.

Mourners carried portraits of the couple, found dead in their Tehran apartment Sunday, and chanted "Death to tyranny" and "Freedom of thought forever." Others sang patriotic songs and celebrated the late nationalist leader Mohammed Mossadegh, who helped inspire Mr. Forouhar and his small Iran National Party.

"Do you see the crowd?" said one of the organizers. "It shows how deeply rooted Iran's national movement and the ideals of Mossadegh are in the hearts of the people."

In a strong speech to Intelligence Ministry officials Thursday, President Mohammad Khatami said Mr. Forouhar's killers must be brought to justice.

"The murder of the late Mr. Forouhar is condemned," he said. "The government and especially the intelligence network have a very important duty to confront it. If we don't deal with the crime seriously, and not identify the culprits, the episode will not only constitute a disrespect for our system, it will become the beginning of more problems to come."

At one point the crowd streamed past a row of buses waiting to take them to the cemetery, instead heading toward the site of the former Parliament, a symbol of Iran's struggle for independence.

Policemen barred the way and there were minor scuffles. There were no apparent injuries and no sign of any attempt by political rivals to disrupt the proceedings.

The police said Wednesday that they had made a number of arrests in the murder case.

Mr. Forouhar served as labor minister in Iran's first government after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. His party, illegal but tolerated, publishes a newsletter that often carries reports of what it says are human rights violations. (Reuters, AP)

Khatami Condemns Bus Attack

Mr. Khatami condemned on Thursday an Islamic militant attack on a bus carrying American tourists, saying it was a national disgrace. The Associated Press reported from Tehran.

The ugly, perverse and possibly conspiratorial treatment of foreign tourists, and those who are officially visiting Iran with valid visas, was an affront to the honor of the Iranian people," Tehran radio quoted Mr. Khatami as saying in a speech to Intelligence Ministry officials.

Radicals chanting "Death to America" and wielding iron bars and throwing stones smashed the windows of a bus carrying 13 foreigners, mostly Americans, in Tehran on Saturday. Devotees of Islam, a radical Muslim group that has been dormant for many years, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Placental Blood: A Simpler Transplant Than Bone Marrow

By Denise Grady
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For people who need bone marrow transplants to fight leukemia or other deadly diseases, but who lack a compatible marrow donor, doctors are salvaging hope from a curious source, one that is normally thrown away: blood left in the umbilical cords and placentas of newborn infants.

In the largest study of placental blood use to date, in 562 patients, including more than 400 children, survival rates were similar to those in studies using bone marrow from unrelated donors who perfectly matched the recipients on tissue typing tests. The procedure worked in many cases

even when the placental blood was not perfectly matched to the patients' tissue. The researchers referred to placental blood, but it is widely known as cord blood.

Patients in the new study were gravely ill with leukemia, lymphoma, other cancers or genetic diseases, and were given cord blood as a last resort because bone marrow donors had not been found for them, or because they were considered too sick to wait the months it could take to find a marrow donor.

The results, published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine, were announced Wednesday by Dr. Pablo Rubinstein, head of immunogenetics at the New York Blood Center in Manhattan. The center has been banking placental

blood since 1993 and provided it to 98 hospitals in the United States and overseas that took part in the study.

Because cord blood is readily available, it could be a huge boon to thousands of people who need marrow transplants. Moreover, cord blood is less likely than bone marrow to transmit infection, and it is collected at no risk to the donor. Donors of bone marrow must undergo a surgical procedure and anesthesia when their marrow is harvested.

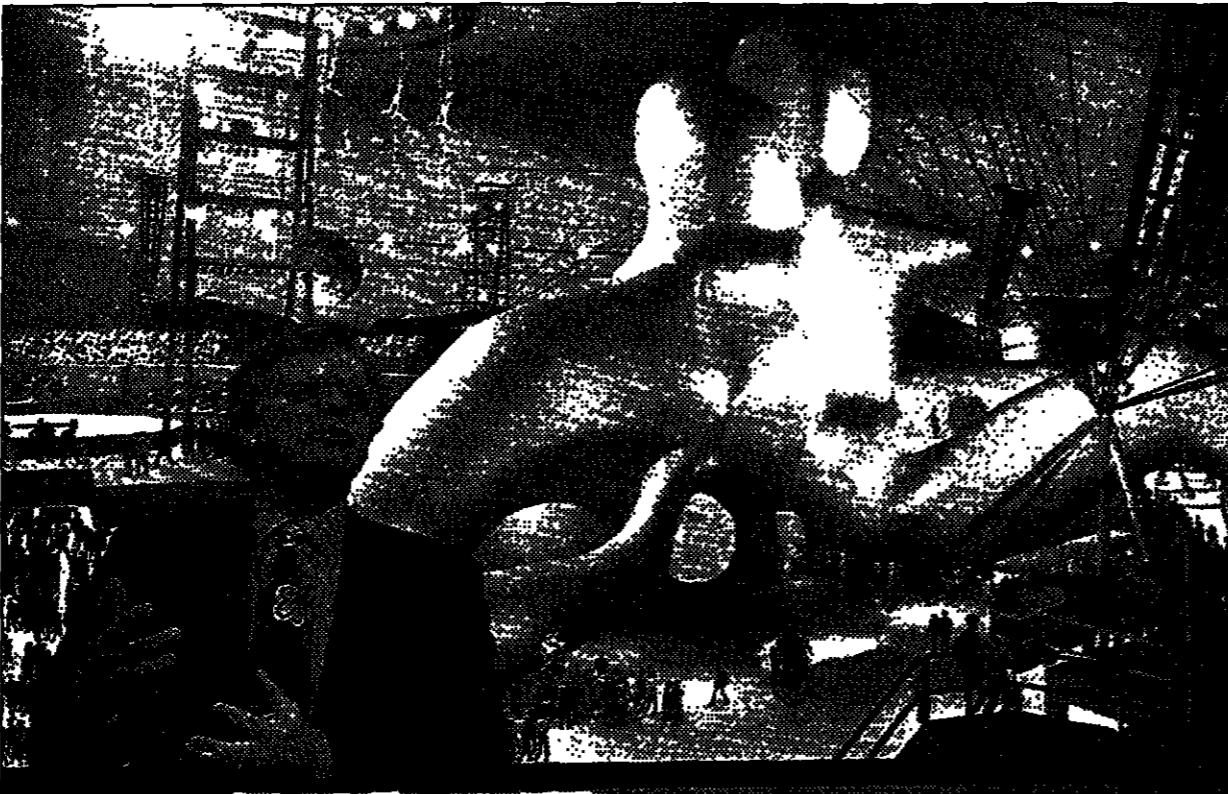
Earlier, smaller studies had suggested that cord blood might be a possible alternative to bone marrow transplants, but researchers said they were heartened by Dr. Rubinstein's findings because of their scope and because patients involved had fared better than might have been expected. All

had been extremely ill, many in advanced stages of disease after long periods of waiting in vain for a bone marrow donor.

Still, by 100 days after cord blood transplantation, 218 of the 562 had died. A similar rate would be expected with bone marrow transplants from unrelated donors in such severe cases.

Dr. Claude L'Enfant, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the study but did not take part in it, said in a telephone interview, "The prospects are quite fantastic, in my opinion. The work from the New York Blood Center is really a medical study."

But Dr. L'Enfant also tempered his remarks, adding that cord blood transplants are an emerging treatment that must be studied further.



SHAPE OF THE FUTURE — Michael Grade, an official of the Millennium Dome in London, after unveiling a computer image Thursday of the abstract human figures that will dominate the interior of the structure.

Saddam Vows to Keep Fighting 'Hostile' Demands on Baghdad

Agence France-Presse

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein vowed Thursday to fight on in his resistance to demands for key weapons files.

"Iraq will continue, on the same path, its fight against its enemies," he said, denouncing, without naming, the United States for its "pursuit of a hostile policy toward the Arab world."

"After years of fighting, Iraq has become a model of resistance for the Arab world," the official Iraqi press quoted Mr. Saddam as saying.

His comments came as the international community failed to show a united front to Iraq's defiance of demands by the chief UN arms inspector, Richard Butler, for key documents on biological, chemical and ballistic weapons.

The UN Security Council threw its support behind UN weapons inspec-

tors Tuesday but refrained from saying whether Iraq's refusal to hand over the documents was a violation of a promise of cooperation made Nov. 14 under the threat of bombing.

A senior Iraqi diplomat hailed the Security Council declaration as a victory for Baghdad and a snub of hard-liners in Washington and London.

"It was a snub for the United States and Britain, who were unable to convince the Security Council to adopt a hostile declaration which could lead to attacks," said Salah Mokhtar, the incoming Iraqi representative to the UN, said Wednesday.

President Bill Clinton's top security advisers met late Wednesday in their second meeting in as many days to discuss Iraq's refusal, and the tone from the White House remained tough. But Washington has not said whether Iraq's refusal could lead to military reprisals.

Israel Blacklists Archives Its Says Are Uncooperative

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel is calling for the opening of international Holocaust-era archives and has published a list of repositories that officials say have put obstacles in the way of researchers.

In a letter made public this week, Bobby Brown, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser on Diaspora affairs, named a dozen archives in Europe and Russia that "have refused or have been uncooperative in sharing information."

"We appeal to each institution listed to open their files so that we may learn why civil society failed in its basic commitment to ensure the safety, lives, liberty and property of our people," said the Nov. 22 letter addressed to the head of the Israeli delegation to a coming Washington conference on Holocaust assets.

The publication of the letter, which did not give details of noncooperation, drew fire from a number of the institutions named. It also attracted critics who questioned whether Israel, itself the victim of boycotts, should be engaging in issuing blacklists.

"Blacklists are something that we as a people should shy away from," said Abe Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, who added that the singling out of archives was "irresponsible and counterproductive."

Officials at some of the archives listed expressed dismay.

"We had an impression that our cooperation with institutions representing Jewish communities was going on with the satisfaction of both sides," said Daria Nalecz, head of the Polish State Archives, which was on the list.

The controversy arose before a four-day conference on Holocaust-era assets, which starts Monday in Washington.

The state institutions named in the letter included the Vatican archives, the French National Archives, the files of the British Custodian of Enemy Property, the MI5 intelligence agency and the central state archives and Prague Jewish Museum in the Czech Republic.

Israel to Review Lebanon Security

LONDON — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel promised a review of security arrangements on the country's border with Lebanon on Thursday after the killing of five Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon in the past 10 days.

Mr. Netanyahu, following talks with Robin Cook, the British foreign secretary, repeated that he would be willing to contemplate the eventual withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon if a way could be found to meet Israel's security needs and protect its military allies there.

Israel, which has controlled parts of south Lebanon since 1978, set up a self-declared "security zone" in 1985 to protect its northern border from guerrilla attacks. (Reuters)

French Urge Africa To Keep the Peace

PARIS — France will try to persuade African leaders this week that they should take over peacekeeping in the region and end the era when white soldiers kept order on the continent.

Paul Quiles, a former French defense minister, told a conference ahead of an African-French summit meeting in Paris on Friday and Saturday that their task "is to help African countries to develop their own peacekeeping capacities."

Mr. Quiles said France wanted to distance itself from the past, but would not withdraw the 7,000 soldiers it maintains in independent African states. (Reuters)

UN Police Extend Mission to Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Despite objections from Haitian lawmakers, the Security Council has decided to keep UN civilian police force in Haiti for another year to keep training the nation's young force.

Haitian lawmakers say the international troops should be replaced by Haitian instructors. But President Rene Preval had asked for an extension of the police mandate.

(AP)

Cuba Detains 6 After Drugs Find

HAVANA — Cuba is holding six Canadian tourists for suspected drug smuggling after cocaine was allegedly found in their luggage, foreign diplomats said.

Four men and two women were arrested on Nov. 8 at Havana Airport after arriving from Jamaica. A seventh member of the group, a pregnant woman, was released. (Reuters)

For the Record

Scores of skeletons in Algeria, believed to be those of the victims of Islamic guerrillas, have been unearthed from mass graves, according to newspaper reports. (Reuters)

GOBBLE: Even Thanksgiving Succumbs to the Takeout Trend

Continued from Page 1

"The Norman Rockwell picture doesn't exist anymore," or Martha Stewart, she said. "But you can re-create it if you order it."

New Yorkers may have started the trend, but others share their love of convenience and their lack of time to peel and dice, whip and baste.

In Washington, more than two dozen groceries, caterers, restaurants and delis offered prepared Thanksgiving feasts for pickup or delivery this year.

In San Diego, at the Arazzo Market Cafe, the feast included corn bisque with red bell peppers and rosemary, a free-range turkey basted with a choice of butters or glazes and other side dishes. A complete dinner for 12 cost \$175.

No one had to live in a big city to take it easy on Turkey Day. From the Internet, one could buy gourmet pies, smoked turkeys, ham and virtually any other specialty food. Plainville Farms, in

Plainville, New York, offered whole turkeys, turkey breasts and side dishes for shipping anywhere in the country.

The main factor seems to be time. In the mid-1960s, Americans spent an average of 2½ hours a day making dinner, according to a survey by the grocery manufacturers. Today, the average is 15 minutes. A parallel factor, experts said, is that in 1965, 39 percent of women were in the labor force. Today, that figure is 79 percent.

"Too busy," was the only thing one woman at Eli's had time to mutter as she explained why she was buying a prepared appetizer, even though her sister was making the rest of the dinner.

Ben Dragoon, owner of Ben's Kosher Deli, said he sold about 1,200 Thanksgiving dinners at his seven stores.

"Years ago, prepared foods or catering were highfalutin terms that meant spending a lot of money," said Mr. Dragoon, whose business for the holidays has been growing at about 10 per-



Admiral Scudi, due in court soon.

U.S. Navy Admiral Is Suspected Of Steering Contracts to a Lover

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A U.S. admiral responsible for Navy purchases is under investigation on suspicion of steering contracts to a woman with whom he was allegedly having an affair, according to Pentagon officials.

Rear Admiral John Scudi, 54, who was the Washington-based director of shore installation management and privatization programs, was relieved of those duties in August pending completion of the inquiry. He is scheduled to appear in military court Dec. 14 for a preliminary hearing on charges that he failed to abide by the Pentagon's ethics regulations in awarding the contracts, made false statements and obstructed investigations.

A married one-star officer, Admiral Scudi also faces two counts of adultery, one with the female contractor and the other with a Navy civilian employee, according to officials familiar with the investigation. A Navy spokesman in

Norfolk, Virginia, said Admiral Scudi had declined all media requests for comment. The allegations against the admiral were first reported in the Washington Times.

Navy investigators, who had suspected Admiral Scudi of wrongdoing for months, got a break in the case last spring when the contractor agreed to cooperate and implicated the admiral, the officials said.

"She learned about the other affair with the civilian employee," one official said. "That's when she came forward and expressed a willingness to cooperate."

Admiral Scudi, who has served 32 years in the Navy, is accused of having improperly directed about \$150,000 of training contracts to the woman from 1993 to 1997. He also is said by officials to have funneled "nonpublic information" to the contractor for use in obtaining other government contracts, then urged her to cover up their relationship when investigators began inquiring about it last year.

Former President of Zimbabwe, Convicted of Sodomy, On Run

Copied by Our Staff Photo Dispatches

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Former President Canaan Banana was convicted of 11 counts of sodomy and homosexual assault Thursday, and prosecutors confirmed that he had fled the country.

Mr. Banana, 62, a Methodist minister, illegally went to neighboring Botswana ahead of the verdict, said Chief Prosecutor Augustine Chikumira. He said the government would seek Mr. Banana's extradition.

"The court finds the accused guilty on all 11 charges," Judge Godfrey Chidzivaiwa said when he passed judgment.

He said Mr. Banana was guilty of two cases of sodomy and nine cases of incest assault, attempted sodomy and committing "unnatural" sexual acts.

The prosecutor told the court that Mr. Banana had left Zimbabwe on Nov. 17 without his passport, which he had surrendered as part of his bail conditions, and was thought to be in Botswana. In Gaborone, a presidential spokesman said Mr. Banana had made no official contacts and had already left Botswana.

The guilty verdict on all counts came after the three-week June trial. Each of the 11 charges carries a usual penalty of

two years imprisonment, for a possible maximum of 22 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 10.

The offenses attributed to Mr. Banana mostly involved bodyguards, a cook and a gardener on his presidential staff. They allegedly occurred when he was president after independence 1980 until 1987.

Mr. Banana's case has been deeply embarrassing President Robert Mugabe, who insists that homosexuality is foreign to African culture and was brought to the continent from the West. He has introduced an outspoken campaign against homosexuality, describing same-sex partners as "lower than pigs and dogs."

The prosecutor told the court that Mr. Banana had left Zimbabwe on Nov. 17 without his passport, which he had surrendered as part of his bail conditions, and was thought to be in Botswana. In Gaborone, a presidential spokesman said Mr. Banana had made no official contacts and had already left Botswana.

Mr. Banana, who is married with four children, has dismissed all suggestions that he is a homosexual. (AP, Reuters)

CURRENCY

Accord
Output
from OPEC

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متحف الأصل



RENAISSANCE
HOTELS AND RESORTS

It's time for a Renaissance

Herald Tribune

BUSINESS/FINANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1998

No Accord On Output From OPEC

Courtesy of Our Staff Photo Dispatches

VIENNA — OPEC ended a two-day gathering Thursday without even a minimum agreement to extend cuts in oil production, saying it would review the situation again in March.

The secretary-general, Khalid Lukman, said there is "no question" of the need to reduce output, suggesting OPEC ministers had disagreed on just how low levels should be.

"We have already got an agreement, you know," Mr. Lukman said. "In March we will decide what to do."

Some delegates had voiced hope that a 2.6 million barrel-a-day cut that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries set in June to run for one year could be extended six months to the end of 1999.

Analysts said that was the very least OPEC needed to do to prop up the lowest prices in 12 years. The price of the benchmark North Sea Brent crude finished Thursday at \$11 a barrel, up 10 cents from Wednesday, when it traded at the lowest price since such contracts began trading in 1986.

The cartel's president, Ghazi bin Saif Nasiri, who also is oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, acknowledged in an opening speech to delegates that a "strong bearish sentiment has set in" on the world market.

Saudi Arabia said it opposed any further reductions because some in OPEC were pumping more than permitted under the June accord, which included producers from outside the cartel.

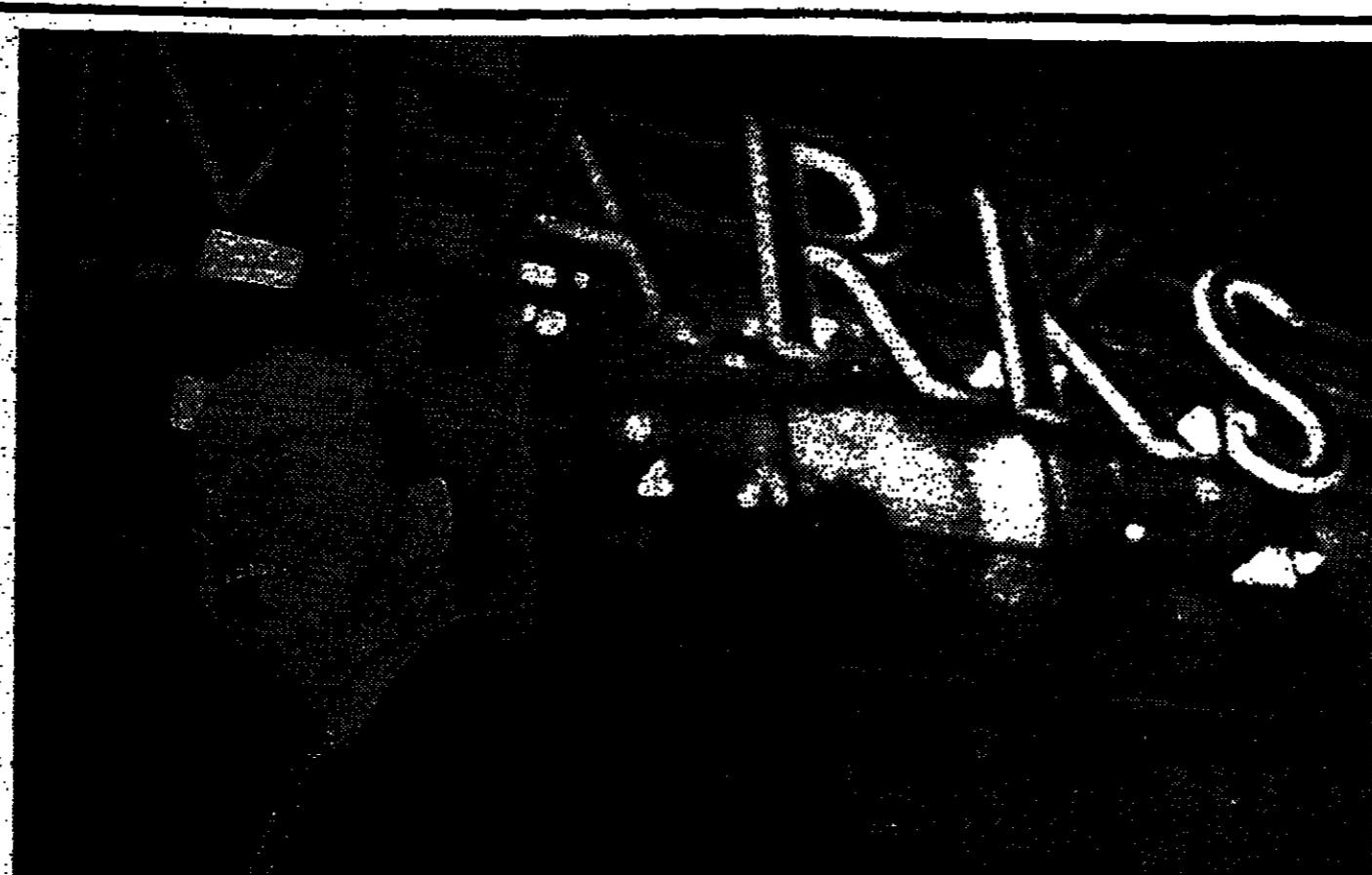
OPEC observers say the culprits are Iran and Venezuela.

"The key factor behind this was the deteriorating relationship between Venezuela and Saudi Arabia," said Mihai Vanzi of Dresden Kleinwort Benson. "Saudi Arabia's bottom line is that it wants to retain its leading position in the U.S. market."

OPEC members — Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela — control 37 percent of world oil supplies.

"This has knocked the bottom out of the market. I have this horrible feeling we could be getting into single digit prices for a while," Mr. Vanzi said.

(AP, Reuters)



Peter Salsbury, the new chief executive of Marks & Spencer, on Thursday outside a branch of the store in central London.

Sparks Fly in British Retailer's Boardroom

Marks & Spencer Shuffles Management, but Investors Are Unimpressed

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

LONDON — The clothes it sells are conservative, to put it mildly. Its line in pre-cooked food tries to cater to just about everyone from brown-bag lunchers to dinner-party hosts, too pressed to attend to the cuisine themselves. Marks & Spencer PLC is — in other words — dependable.

Until now.

For the past month, the venerable British retailer has been roiled by the unthinkable — an unseemly boardroom tussle has been aired in public after profits cascaded and its stock plummeted.

Britain's financial journals, moreover, gleefully picked over what they called its parochialism and introverted management culture, slamming as slow-footed its efforts to take the distinctive green-and-white store-

front to a broader European market. Its automatic chairman, Sir Richard Greenbury, even flew back from India to stem a flow of disclosures about a power struggle over his succession.

On Thursday, the company — known affectionately to many in Britain as "Marks and Sparks" — moved to slap a bandage on its bleeding. After a marathon board meeting that lasted into Wednesday night, Sir Richard's chosen heir, Peter Salsbury, was named to succeed him, and an insurgent executive who had sought to usurp him was shooed from a \$1 million-a-year job into early retirement.

Sir Richard, 62, who had been both chairman and chief executive, was seen as triumphing by securing the post of nonexecutive chairman until 2000. Mr. Salsbury, 49, will be the new chief executive as of February.

But the markets appeared unmoved. Shares in Marks & Spencer, which has un-

derperformed the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share blue-chip index all year, fell 24.5 pence, or 5.5 percent, to close at 421 pence (\$6.99), reflecting investors' assessment that the new chief executive may not have the clout to improve the company's sliding fortunes.

The loser was the deputy chairman, Keith Oates, 56, who will retire in January and who was considered an outsider by many despite having spent 14 years with the company.

The crisis — exemplified in a 23 percent drop in first-half profit, the first fall in six years, that apparently precipitated Mr. Oates's bid for the top job — followed outsiders' criticism that the company had failed to introduce new ideas to remain competitive. Sir Richard, for instance, has been with the company for 45 years, since joining at the age of 17. Mr. Salsbury, too, is a Marks & Spencer "lifer" who joined

See M&S, Page 19

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

In Dealing With Japan, Be Sensitive

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Why was Japan's artillery much more accurate than its rifle fire in World War II? Why do Japanese athletes, unlike those of most other countries, perform better in trials for their national Olympic team than in the Olympics themselves?

According to a prominent Japanese sociologist, the answer to both questions is the same: Japanese people do better when they are not being observed by foreigners. The artillery was far behind the front lines, out of sight of the enemy, and only Japanese spectators watch Olympic trials while the whole world watches the Olympic Games.

The sociologist first expounded this theory in the 1970s, since when Japan has gotten much more used to being watched by foreigners — especially where its economic performance is concerned. But many Japanese markedly feel uncomfortable under a fine microscope.

Since its economy began stagnating seven years ago, Japan has endured a deluge of criticism and advice, mostly from the United States. Recent weeks have brought more of the same, with senior U.S. officials savaging Japanese trade policy and President Bill Clinton delivering milder admonishments during his visit to Japan last week.

Some leading Japanese commentators now say the country's poor economic performance, and foreign disapproval of it, are bringing deep feelings of insecurity to the surface.

The country's reaction to foreign pressure is complex. Sometimes Japanese officials welcome it as a way of persuading public opinion to accept unpopular decisions; sometimes they resent it. Lately, resentment has been growing.

Clearly these cultural factors need to be taken into account by foreigners seeking to influence Japanese decisions. Grating against a culture is usually counterproductive (witness U.S. attempts to browbeat France), and there is no point in gratuitously alienating Japan.

Anyway, there are two sides to most issues. Mr. Clinton may have a point when he warns that the soaring Japanese trade surplus could provoke calls for "retaliatory protectionism" in the United States. But it is part of his job, not just Japan's, to keep American political support at bay.

The United States may be right that Japan has not done enough to help its neighbors since the Asian economic crisis erupted last year. But it was Washington that torpedoed Japan's original plans for a big new Asian fund to help countries in trouble.

Tokyo was wrong to block further trade liberalization at the summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum this month. But it is

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thinkahead@washpost.com

right to point out that fast-growing America will inevitably suck in more imports than slow-growing Japan.

America is perfectly entitled to ask whether the Japanese system, so effective when Japan was catching up with the West, is capable of dealing with current problems. But many Americans tend to forget that Japan's values and priorities are legitimately different from their own.

In the end, however, the Japanese will have to get used to foreign attention. In today's interdependent world, the trend is for the international community to intervene ever more intrusively into what used to be regarded as a country's domestic economic and political affairs.

There is also nothing in Japan remotely resembling the huge American policy-formation machine, a nexus of public and private interests of every kind, that is constantly throwing out new economic plans and ideas.

As the world's third-largest economy after the United States and the European Union, Japan must accept that its domestic policies are a legitimate subject for foreign analysis and recommendations, especially when they are not succeeding.

The bottom line is that if the Japanese find that those recommendations clash too sharply with their culture and their values, they should come up with more effective policies of their own.

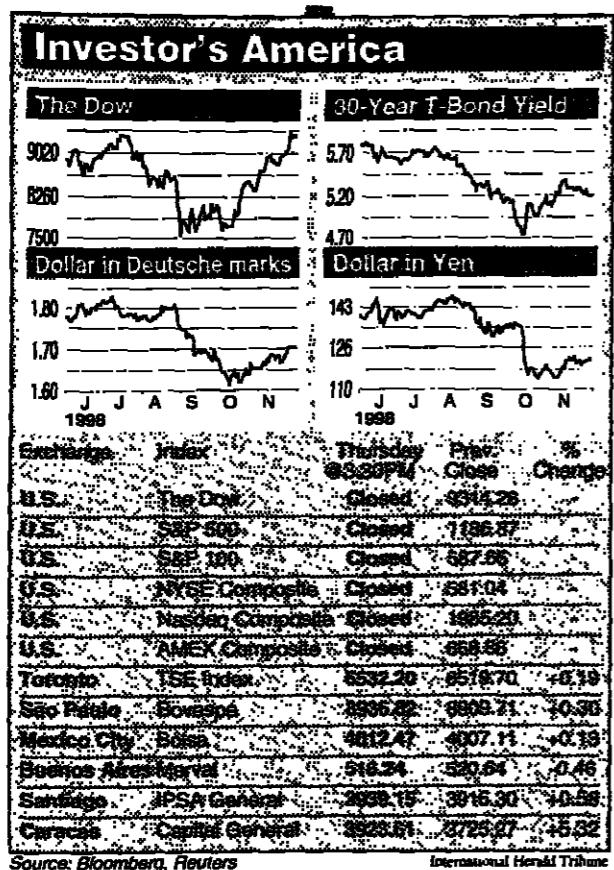
Tokyo was wrong to block further trade liberalization at the summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum this month. But it is

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

| Cross Rates | | Nov. 26 | | LIBID-LIBOR Rates | | Nov. 26 | | |
|--|--------|---------------|--------|-------------------|---------|--------------|--------|--|
| U.S. dollar | 5 6 AM | U.S. dollar | 5 6 AM | Dollar | 1-month | Swiss | ECB | |
| Australian | 1.095 | 3.065 | 1.075 | 1.025 | 1.044 | 1.075 | 1.075 | |
| Brussels | 1.511 | 3.215 | 1.495 | 1.475 | 1.495 | 1.515 | 1.515 | |
| Frederick | 1.093 | 2.855 | 1.073 | 1.055 | 1.073 | 1.075 | 1.075 | |
| London (00) | 1.041 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| Madrid | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| Milan | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| New York (00) | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| Paris | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| Tokyo | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| Zurich | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| 1 ECU | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| 1 SDR | 1.042 | 2.285 | 1.021 | 1.005 | 1.021 | 1.025 | 1.025 | |
| Chelmsford, London, Milan, Paris and Zurich. Things in other centers New York, Frankfurt, Tokyo rates of 7.5%. To buy one dollar: Units of 100; M/L: not quoted; N/A: not available. | | | | | | | | |
| Other Dollar Values | Per \$ | Currency | Per \$ | Currency | Per \$ | Currency | Per \$ | |
| Argentine peso | 0.551 | Great Britain | 285.04 | Malta | 1.042 | Malta | 1.042 | |
| Australian | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | N. Zealand | 1.042 | N. Zealand | 1.042 | |
| Brussels | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| Frederick | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| London (00) | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| Madrid | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| Milan | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| New York (00) | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| Paris | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| Tokyo | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| Zurich | 1.5113 | Hong Kong \$ | 7.735 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | Swiss francs | 1.042 | |
| Forward Rates | 30-day | 60-day | 90-day | 1-year | 2-year | 3-year | 5-year | |
| Central | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Paribas | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Frederick | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| London (00) | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Madrid | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Milan | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| New York (00) | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Paris | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Tokyo | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Zurich | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | 1.042 | |
| Central Bank (Argentina); KBC Bank (Belgium); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Montreal); UBS (Zurich). Other rates from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters. | | | | | | | | |

| Key Money Rates | | Today | | Prev. | |
|-----------------|--|-------|--|-------|--|
|-----------------|--|-------|--|-------|--|

THE AMERICAS

**U.S. Arms Makers Feel Pinch in Sales Abroad**

Weakness

In Japan Lets Dollar Rise

Bloomberg News

LONDON — The dollar rose against the yen Thursday amid expectations that two reports due in Japan on Friday would underline how frail its economy has become.

The reports are likely to show that retail sales and industrial production both fell last month — more evidence that Japan's efforts to pull itself out of recession are not working yet.

"The yen should weaken a bit more," said John Parker at Pavilion Asset Management. "They're doing their best, and at some stage it

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

might improve. Unfortunately, there's such a degree of disbelief it's not helping."

The dollar closed in London at 122.35 yen, up from 121.705 yen in New York on Wednesday. U.S. markets were closed for Thanksgiving Day.

As Japan's economy falters, the U.S. economy keeps growing and its stock market continues to rally, fuelled by three interest-rate cuts in the past eight weeks. The U.S. economy grew at a 3.9 percent annual rate in the third quarter.

"We've seen stability returning to financial markets, and that's supportive for the dollar," said Robert Patterson, a global currency strategist at J.P. Morgan & Co.

Meanwhile, some signs appeared that growth may slow in countries set to adopt the euro, the European Union's single currency, on Jan. 1. France, the world's fourth-largest economy, reported a drop in November business confidence and a slowing in third-quarter economic growth.

The dollar slipped to 1.7031 Deutsche marks from 1.7045 DM to 5.7124 French francs from 5.7133 francs and to 1.4089 Swiss francs from 1.4100 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6613 from \$1.6610.

To Our Readers

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, stock, bond and currency markets were closed Thursday in the United States.

By Tim Smart
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Asian economic crisis is causing some of the developing world's biggest arms buyers to delay or cancel hefty weapons purchases that are crucial to U.S. defense contractors.

That will hurt the bottom lines of companies including Lockheed Martin Corp., Raytheon Systems Co. and Boeing Co., which in recent years have come to depend on international sales of their highest-priced products. Among the weapons systems affected are Lockheed's F-16 jet fighter, Raytheon's Patriot missile and Boeing's AWACS airborne early-warning plane.

Deals are being stretched out or canceled in countries such as Thailand and South Korea because those countries can no longer afford new armaments with currencies that have been devalued and economies that are under siege.

Falling prices of major commodities such as oil and copper, however, are also crimping purchases in countries far from Asia, analysts say. Latin American and Middle Eastern nations also are pulling back from some of their more elaborate military-spending plans because of declining commodity prices.

"I think 1998 sales will be down from 1997," when worldwide arms orders surged 21 percent, to \$42.6 billion, said Digby Waller, an economist with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Mr. Waller said 1999 sales would depend on how quickly Asian economies recovered, as well as on oil prices. The institute monitors worldwide arms sales and tracks all suppliers. The United States is the world's largest arms exporter, followed by Britain and France.

Five years ago, U.S. companies controlled 39.5 percent of the international arms trade. Last year, their share was 45 percent, and the

dollar value of the market has increased by about \$9 billion in that time. "We've seen companies placing greater dependence on foreign sales," said Brett Lambert, a military analyst with DFI International, referring to the U.S. defense industry.

International sales are keeping alive profitable programs such as Boeing's F-15 and Lockheed's F-16 now that the Pentagon is no longer buying large quantities of the aircraft. In the case of the F-15, the production line probably would have been closed in the early 1990s except for purchases by Saudi Arabia and Israel.

"The long-awaited South Korean purchase will not save the line, and Thailand is no longer an active prospect. Similarly, low oil prices will probably kill Boeing's hopes of a 12-to 24-unit Saudi follow-on buy."

Asia and the Middle East have been the primary export markets for U.S. weapons-makers in recent years. In 1997, Saudi Arabia was the

world's largest importer of arms, principally because of its receipt of Boeing F-15s and British Tornado bombers and Hawk trainers ordered earlier in the decade.

The Middle East led in orders this year, with a \$7 billion deal for Lockheed F-16s from the United Arab Emirates. But that contract is showing signs of strain, and Lockheed recently warned Wall Street analysts that it did not expect to book the sale this year because of last-minute disagreements over contractual details.

However, a Lockheed spokesman, Charles Manor, said the problems with that contract did not involve financing. "We've seen little if any disruption of our programs because of economic troubles" in Asia or the Middle East, Mr. Manor said.

While the Middle East has been the mother lode for U.S. arms dealers in recent years, Asia has been catching up. Deliveries to East Asian countries have nearly doubled since 1994, to \$14.7 billion in 1997, slightly below the Middle East's \$15.6 billion total.

But the region's financial woes

have significantly slowed buying. This year, Thailand canceled a \$400 million purchase of eight Boeing F/A-18s. The United States will pick up the cost, and the Pentagon plans to give the planes to the Marine Corps.

Boeing also faces the potential loss or slowdown of a purchase of AWACS planes that South Korea was considering. A decision in the \$2 billion-plus competition, in which Boeing is considered the front-runner, was expected this year but is now viewed as doubtful.

South Korea is expected to delay a purchase of an air-defense missile system, a competition that involved Raytheon's Patriot missile.

Not every country is retrenching. Greece recently purchased Patriots in a \$1 billion deal for Raytheon, and South Africa announced plans last week for \$3 billion of arms purchases, all from European suppliers.

But another potential contract, a \$4.6 billion Turkish helicopter deal for which Textron Inc.'s Bell unit is competing, may run into congressional opposition because of alleged human-rights violations in Turkey.

Telefonica to Invest \$3.8 Billion in Brazil

Bloomberg News

SAO PAULO — Telefonica SA, the top Spanish telephone company, said Thursday that it would invest \$3.8 billion next year to expand its telephone networks in Brazil.

"We're going to invest to help the economic and social development of Brazil," said Juan Villalobos, president of Telefonica. "Our investment isn't speculative; it's permanent."

The investment would help Telefonica add additional phone lines and increase the number of cellular phone clients in Brazil, the largest economy in Latin America.

Telefonica agreed to spend more than \$5 billion to buy stakes in Brazilian phone companies in the July breakup and sale of Telecommunications Brasileiras SA, the nation's main phone company. This included a \$4.9 billion bid for Telesp, the fixed-line phone company in São Paulo, the largest city. Mr. Villalobos said he expects Telesp to add 2 million new lines in 1999, bringing the total to 8.2 million lines.

Telefonica also is part of a consortium that won a \$1.1 billion bid for Tele Sudeste, the cellular phone company serving Rio de Janeiro. Mr. Villalobos said the Brazilian state development bank might finance up to half the \$3.8 billion investment. The rest is to come from Telefonica's own resources and a possible bond sale. Telefonica plans to eliminate about 2,000 jobs at Telesp next year.

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Telefonica's profits have been squeezed by growing competition in Spain and fallout from the recession in some Asian nations and the emerging markets of Latin America.

Jobless Rate Declines

The Brazilian unemployment rate declined for the second straight month in October as companies hired workers to increase production in expectation of a sales boom at the end of year. Bloomberg News reported from Rio de Janeiro.

In the 30 days ending Oct. 31, unemployment in the six largest cities fell to 8 percent of the working population, from 8.3 percent in the previous month, the government's statistics bureau said. The jobless rate for October 1997 was 6.2 percent.

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BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES IN AFRICA

Tiny Mauritius has a stock market capitalization of \$1.8 billion, one the largest in Africa.



TOWARD MORE TRANSPARENCY AND SOPHISTICATION

Privately owned institutions are leading the way to the modernization and internationalization of African banks.

The face of banking in sub-Saharan Africa is changing. Financial reforms have opened up banking and given rise to many opportunities for both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

One of South Africa's top banks, Standard — in a list including Stanbic, Amalgamated Banks of South Africa Group, Nedcor, First National Bank Holdings, Investec Group and NBS Bank — was the first to take advantage of the opportunities offered by countries to the north. In May 1998, Standard bought 72 percent of Malawi's Indebank Financial Services. It has 14 other ventures in, for instance, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland and Nigeria. Investments in one country can lead to opportunities in another. Nedcor's investment in the State Bank of Mauritius should open the door to Madagascar and India.

While most of the countries attracting foreign investors have introduced economic and political reforms, regulatory and supervisory measures have often failed to keep pace. A series of bank failures is forcing individual countries to restructure their banking sectors to create an environment better able to foster economic growth and encourage and keep foreign business interest. In this, governments play a crucial role.

Basic backing
Improving banking conditions can bring excellent returns. One example is

Africa's Multilateral Lender

The African Development Bank Group, which includes the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund (the bank's soft-loan arm) and the Abidjan-based Nigeria Trust Fund, makes loans and equity investment for the economic development and social progress of the 53 member countries on the continent. The bank's focus is on agriculture, public utilities, transport, industry, health and education. Poverty reduction, the environment, gender and corporate governance — the so-called cross-cutting issues — are part of its "broad menu" for the continent's development.

"It is important to keep the African character of the ADB," said Philippe de Fontaine Vive, France's representative in Abidjan, on the decision in June of this year to increase the bank's capital by 35 percent (\$7.65 billion) and change its voting percentages. "Its capital, its administrative rules, its leaders reflect the diversity of Africa."

The equity share of the nonregional members — the United States, Japan and the European countries — was raised from 35 percent to 40 percent, with an increased veto of 66 percent.

Non-African members provided credit for the 39 African countries that do not qualify for nonconcessional credit on grounds of poverty.

The bank's president, Moroccan Omar Kabbaj, who was a director of the World Bank and the IMF, has presided over far-reaching reforms of the AFD that are doing much to raise the credibility of the bank in the international arena and in the eyes of other multilaterals.

Bank Belgoise's investments in African countries such as Congo and Togo. According to a World Bank study, "Bank Restructuring in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons Learned," the pace of change in banking sectors has much to do with government commitment to restructuring. The results of bank restructuring were compared in seven countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Mozambique. Strong government support indicated by "the transmission of technical know-how to policy makers" was evident in the first three, while the last four were characterized by a "lack of government commitment" to reform. As with Kenya, the Nigerian and Zimbabwean banking sectors did not — until crises began to loom — have concentrated government commitment to reform.

Nonetheless, countries in every corner of Africa are rising to the challenge and carving out more efficient and streamlined banking sectors, often against a backdrop of macroeconomic instability, declining aid and low levels of foreign direct investment (FDI). South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Angola and Nigeria (the last two for oil production) are the main recipients of FDI. But, as the IMF says, attracting FDI requires "a stable macroeconomic environment along with improved "governance" and a legal and regulatory environment that is stable and transparent."

Many central banks — as with other types of bank, including the largest commercial ones — still remain under government control. Some have been liquidated or sold to private concerns. Weak management, attributable to a lack of skills and also corruption, compromises banks' standing. Many are forced to prop up inefficient state enterprises and mop up government fiscal deficits, besides providing credit to politically connected private-sector concerns.

There is much to be done, and central banks have an important part to play, but these institutions are unlikely to be effective in supervisory and regulatory roles until they become autonomous from government. As Okechukwu Umegbu, second vice president of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, recently told a London business magazine: "If the Central Bank is not autonomous, there will be a passing of the buck between it and the Ministry of Finance."

A fine line
Liberalization has provided opportunities for all manner of financial institutions, from unregistered dealers to merchant banks, discount houses, new commercial banks and building societies in Africa, from Zimbabwe and Nigeria to Kenya, to name only a few. These developments have led to criticism in local national newspapers that the countries are "overbanked" and are failing to meet their obligations.

There is a downside to liberalization — excesses, which are all the more problematic when supervisory measures are thin on the ground.

In Kenya, Prudential became the fourth bank to fail to meet clearing responsibilities. Others, such as Trust Bank (with branches in Uganda and Tanzania) and Reliance Bank, suffered the same fate earlier and are under statutory management — a situation adding to what is already a crisis of confidence in small banks.

Not even the largest have been free of the shadow of dubious management practices. A few weeks before the third tranche of shares in majority-state-owned Kenya Commercial Bank was floated in April, local newspapers reported that the general manager and some of the directors had acquired unserviced loans worth \$2.58 million. CBN then gave other "distressed" banks until Dec. 31, 1998 to pay up. According to a Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation report, deposits of 49 billion naira — 29 percent of all deposits — were with banks classified as "distressed," and 49 percent of loans were nonperforming.

A place of contradictions and enormous vitality, Nigeria is poised to implement some very sophisticated banking technology that will theoretically move the coun-



STOCK MARKETS ATTRACT INCREASED FOREIGN CAPITAL

New funds are being launched that invest in a portfolio of African markets.

The liberalization of capital markets and internalization of domestic markets has increased portfolio investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Global investment managers have been increasingly attracted to the investment opportunities offered by African stock exchanges. Recently, the Africa Growth and Investment Fund — based in South Africa and sponsored by Citibank, Société Générale and Rothschild — was launched to invest Africa-wide. Around the same time, the West African Growth Fund, based in Abidjan for investments in the privatized and private companies of Franc Zone countries, was founded.

There are 12 stock markets in sub-Saharan Africa — in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire. The tiny island of Mauritius, 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the East African coast, also has one.

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October 1997, Uganda, Tanzania and Mozambique are expected to open stock exchanges.

Nigeria has rich and diversified resources, but has had poor implementation of macroeconomic policies, and institutional investors' dismay at the government's failure to resuscitate the country's privatization program has helped create a slow market. The Nigerian bourse, with its six branches and computerized settlement system introduced in April 1997, has around 283 listed companies. Market capitalization was \$3.5 billion in 1996.

Offshore success
Mauritius, often referred to as an "African success story," is a flourishing offshore financial center founded on a stable and relatively industrialized economy, which has given it real gross domestic product growth of 5 percent to 6 percent.

The Stock Exchange of Mauritius, one of the largest in Africa, has a market capitalization of \$1.8 billion. The main all-share index had 46 companies listed in March 1998, with two companies also listed on the London Stock Exchange. SEM has 11 active stock-brokering companies.

Over a five-year period, commercial banking has had average annual growth of 9 percent. Foreign banks have long been attracted to the island, and many of these, including Barclays, have built large networks of branches.

Two of the largest banks — the Mauritius Commercial Bank, holding 45 percent of the domestic market, and the State Bank of Mauritius, with 30 percent of market share — dominate the Mauritian Stock Exchange. SEM permits the listing of offshore investment funds; there were more than 130 at the end of 1997. ■

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was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.

WRITER: Jane Borges in London
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahler.

African Development Bank Group

When I grow up I will be the Director or even Chairman of the Board!



Development of Private Enterprise

Just like this little boy, many Africans are full of ambition for themselves and their countries, and possess skills equal to those of the company president! The private sector, with limitless possibilities for a lasting and stable development of the continent, must be aided and encouraged.

Within the ADB, the Department in charge of the development of private sector in Africa (OPSD), has the responsibility of putting into action the policies and strategy of the Bank in this area. The Bank has already granted loans and equities of USD 125 million, in favor of projects with a total cost of about USD 700 million. Assisted projects covered a wide range of sectors including infrastructure projects, financial institutions, manufacturing, mining, agro-business and tourism.

The ADB offers direct assistance without government guarantees to private enterprises and financial institutions through terms loans, equity participations, quasi-equity investments, guarantees and underwriting. The Bank also extends lines of credit to private financial institutions for lending to small and medium enterprises.

The African Development Bank has equally initiated

and upheld efforts towards the creation of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank). As part of its efforts to promote entrepreneurship and improve management of African enterprises, the Bank has also co-sponsored with sister organizations, the creation of the Africa Project Development Facility (APDF) and the African Management Services Company (AMSCO), while redefining methods of more intense collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

The Bank will provide advisory services to African member countries on ways to improve the environment for private enterprise functioning and develop capital markets.

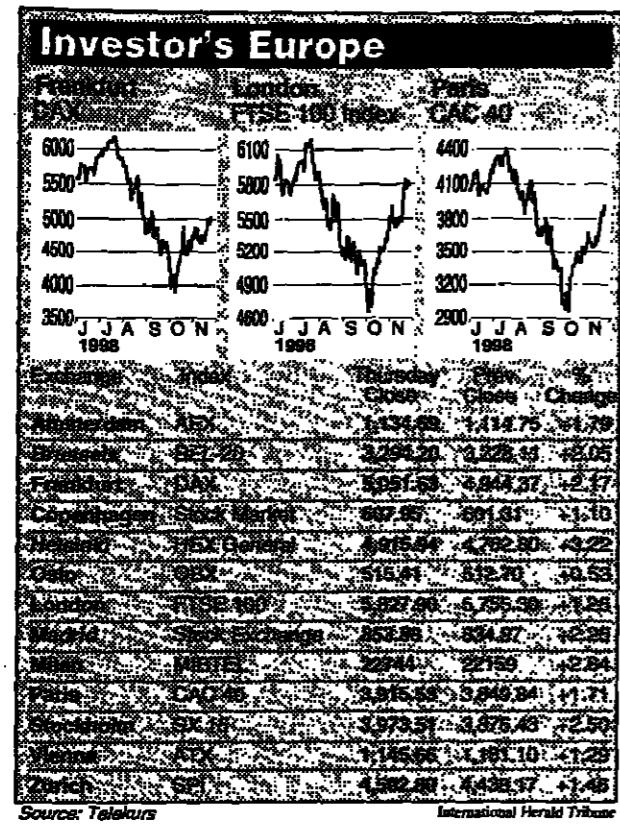
Through the African Development Fund (ADF), the ADB Group has launched new ways to assist African microenterprises under its "AMINA" (ADF Microfinance Initiative for Africa) Program. This initiative will strengthen the capacity of microfinance institutions such as NGOs, village banks and credit unions to provide an appropriate range of financial services including savings and microcredit to the backbone of Africa's future prosperity the micro-entrepreneurs, especially women.

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EUROPE

Russia Tells Creditors It Can't Pay Soviet Debt**Moscow's Warning on \$28 Billion Obligation Signals Western Bankers to Expect a Default**By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

Source: Telkaus International Herald Tribune

EU Closes 3 Telecom Inquiries

Copied by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday it had closed three of its investigations into connection charges for calls between fixed and mobile phone networks after the telecommunications companies changed their practices.

The inquiries involved Telefonica, Telefónica de Spain and Telecom Italia, the state-owned Italian telephone company.

The commission said it had suspended its investigation into charges by Deutsche Telekom and the Dutch operator KPN Telecom for connecting mobile-to-fixed calls and another involving KPN's retention of revenue for calls from fixed to mobile phones because national authorities had taken up the cases.

However, the commission said it was continuing to investigate Post & Telecom Austria, Telecom Italia, Deutsche Telekom, Belgacom and Telefonica over such calls.

The commission said Telecom Italia had stopped charging more to connect calls from mobile operators than from fixed operators, reducing charges for mobile companies by about 40 percent. It said it had closed the case against Telefonica after the Spanish telecommunications regulator insisted that the company's proposed interconnection fees apply to mobile as well as fixed operators, and Telecom Italia announced prices that would reduce the revenue it kept from fixed-to-mobile calls, the commission added.

The commission began the inquiries in July after uncovering 14 cases of what it called "potentially excessive or discriminatory" prices for wireless communications in the 15-country European Union market that was opened to competition at the start of the year. It was part of an effort to enforce deregulation of the EU telecommunications industry.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

LONDON — Crippled by economic crisis and desperate for international aid, Russia has told Western bankers that it will not meet payment terms on \$28 billion in Soviet-era debt to commercial creditors, effectively paving the way for a default on interest payments next month, bankers said Thursday.

The Russian position emerged from three days of negotiations this week between Russian officials and the so-called London Club, a loose assembly of more than 600 Western commercial creditors.

The upshot of the discussion, according to Russian officials and Western bankers, was that Russia would not meet previously agreed terms to pay half of a \$724 million interest repayment due Wednesday in cash and has offered instead to pay in bonds worth only some 13 percent of their face value.

In a further sign of trouble, bankers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said separate negotiations on \$10 billion in ruble-denominated domestic debt owed to foreigners had divided Western creditors over whether to accept new Russian terms.

"The issue is whether they should give any form of acknowledgement or not," when a committee of 18 banks meets here Friday to discuss the Russian offer, said a banker who asked not to be identified by name. "No one feels there's been much achievement."

Russia announced a moratorium on debt Aug. 17 and allowed the value of the ruble to slide. Since then, it has failed to reach agreement with the International Monetary Fund on economic policies that would free \$4.3 billion of a \$22.6 billion bailout package.

Mikhail Kasyanov, the deputy finance minister, has signaled deepening troubles by saying Russia will be able to pay back less than \$10 billion of the \$17 billion in foreign debt that falls due in 1999.

The negotiations with the London Club centered on terms agreed in 1997 setting out a schedule of repayments of debts from the former Soviet Union whose principal is denominated in so-called principal bonds. Under the 1997 agreement, half of the interest due next Wed-

nesday was to be paid in cash and half in bonds called interest arrears notes. Instead, Russia now wants to pay the whole \$724 million by issuing new interest arrears notes.

To fulfill earlier agreements, 95 percent of creditors must agree to accept payment in new paper, but most of the holders of interest arrears notes are believed to be dispersed.

Russian officials say a separate interest payment of \$216 million will be made in cash, but the London Club did not confirm this. Mr. Kasyanov said Wednesday that London Club members had agreed in principle to accept the whole interest payment in the notes, but bankers said creditors had not agreed.

"To most lay people, it's definitely a default," said a banker who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They are not going to pay. We are not even at the due date, and they have already announced that they are not going to pay, and they are trying to get the creditors to accept that."

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Sluggish Spending Is Seen Keeping Hong Kong Down

Bloomberg News

HONG KONG — The government is expected to report Friday that Hong Kong's economy shrank 7 percent from a year earlier in the July-September quarter, its biggest contraction ever, because of plunging consumer spending and capital flight triggered by the Asian currency crisis.

The economy contracted 2.7 percent in the January-March quarter and 5.2 percent in April through June. The third-quarter decline expected by analysts would mark the first time since at least the early 1960s that the economy has shrunk in three consecutive quarters.

But some economists say the situation has finally bottomed out.

As evidence they point to the 62 percent jump in the benchmark Hang Seng stock index since Aug. 13 and signs that property prices have stabilized.

"The market is sending me signals which are telling me from a bear to a bull," said Mac Overton, a fund manager at MRF Capital Asia Ltd.

"It's a painful transformation."

Property values plunged 55 percent in the 13 months through October as the former British colony plunged into recession.

Now, though, evidence of an upturn in the property market could be laying the foundation for a wider economic recovery.

As interest rates fall — Hong Kong banks cut their prime lending

rate to 9.5 percent from 9.75 percent last week — investors are betting that it is a good time to buy. Because seven out of 10 Hong Kong companies invest in real estate, rising property prices increase company profits across the board.

The 12 biggest property companies make up 22 percent of the Hang Seng stock index and have more than doubled in value as a group this year.

Still, hitting bottom does not mean an immediate return to growth, said Martin Cubbon, finance director at Swire Pacific Ltd., which owns controlling stakes in Cathay Pacific Airways and Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Co.

"There is still a lot of pain to get

through," Mr. Cubbon said, pointing to unemployment, which stands at a record 5.3 percent. Retail sales fell at a record 21 percent in September from a year earlier, their 11th consecutive monthly decline, signaling that deflation remains a threat.

Consumer prices rose only 1.0 percent in October from a year earlier, prices of many goods actually fell at the retail level, and economists say the deflation could continue through next year if demand remained weak.

Hong Kong exports fell 17.5 percent in October from a year earlier as demand slackened in the United States and most of Europe, as well as in Japan, China and other Asian countries.

Exports totaled 119 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$15.37 billion). Imports fell 22.4 percent, to 118.7 billion dollars. The resulting narrower trade deficit reflected weaker domestic demand, analysts and economists said.

"The fourth quarter is going to be quite bad because the U.S. market has slowed down for Chinese exports," said Andy Xie, an economist at Morgan Stanley Asia Ltd.

"Together with reduced Asian demand, this means shrinking exports for China."

Over all, corporate Hong Kong can expect a grim year in 1999, Mr. Cubbon said, because companies are not going to be able to raise prices.

Investor's Asia

| | | Hong Kong Hang Seng | Singapore Straits Times | Tokyo Nikkei 225 |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Exchange | Index | Thursday Close | Close | Prev. % Change |
| Hong Kong | Hang Seng | 16,778.92 | 16,720.89 | +0.54 |
| Singapore | Straits Times | 1,390.70 | 1,390.51 | +0.01 |
| Sydney | All Ordinaries | 2,772.00 | 2,749.40 | +0.82 |
| Tokyo | Nikkei 225 | 15,207.77 | 15,073.47 | +0.83 |
| Kuala Lumpur Composite | 496.59 | 502.15 | -0.69 | |
| Bangkok SET | 382.20 | 381.01 | -2.25 | |
| Seoul Composite Index | 446.59 | 454.01 | -3.75 | |
| Taipei Stock Market Index | 7,377.85 | 7,213.50 | +2.28 | |
| Manila PSE | 1,926.63 | 1,955.54 | -1.92 | |
| Delhi Composite Index | 394.68 | 387.38 | +1.88 | |
| Wellington NZSE-40 | 1,962.35 | 1,981.74 | -0.96 | |
| Bombay Sensitive Index | 2,825.08 | 2,831.66 | -1.96 | |

Source: Teeklus

International Herald Tribune

EXXON: Talking Takeover of Mobil

Continued from Page 1

The talks between Exxon and Mobil come with oil prices stuck near their lowest level in 12 years. The drop in oil prices has increased the pressure on oil companies to cut costs.

Exxon, which has a market value of \$17.6 billion, and Mobil, which has a market value of \$61.1 billion, both have histories of being fiercely independent, and both have already cut back on staff and made themselves lean to survive even a prolonged period of low oil prices. But this has been a particularly unsettling year for the oil industry, and there is little prospect that crude oil prices will recover soon.

Consequently, chief executives of most oil companies have had to swallow their pride and look for suitable partners. This summer, British Petroleum announced an agreement to buy Amoco Corp. for \$48.2 million, creating the world's third-largest oil company and prompting analysts to predict even more widespread consolidation.

"It showed that megamergers are doable," said Adam Sieminski, an analyst for BT Alex. Brown.

He added, however, that any combination between Exxon and Mobil would not be an easy match because Mobil has been known as a proud company that has said in the past it would not want to merge.

Analysts and investment bankers were split about the logic of a potential deal.

"Neither company is fat," said Michael Mayer, an analyst at Schroder & Co. "Neither company says they are losing opportunities because of size."

Garfield Miller, president of Aegis Energy Advisors Corp., an independent investment bank based in New York, said: "If you asked me if Exxon needed to be bigger, the answer is probably no. It is hard to say that there is anything in particular to gain."

In particular, Mr. Miller said, the two companies have enormous similarities in their domestic refining and marketing businesses.

"They really do overlap quite a bit," he said. "You really do wonder what is the benefit of all that redundancy."

But Amy Jaffe, an energy research analyst with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, said the combination of the two companies would be logical, in part because it would give them greater influence in bidding for development projects in the Middle East.

(Bloomberg, NYT, AP)

More Kia Debt To Be Forgiven

Reuters

SEOUL — Creditors of Kia Motors Corp. and its Asia Motors subsidiary have agreed to forgive more of the failing companies' debts, satisfying a condition of their prospective buyer, Hyundai Motor Co., Hyundai said Thursday.

Creditors agreed to write off an additional 219.4 billion won (\$175.9 million) of Asia Motors' debt, bringing the total write-off to 7.39 trillion won.

Hyundai won the bidding for Kia and Asia Motors in October. But after examining Kia's books, it found more debt than originally disclosed and asked for a bigger write-off.

Hyundai is to sign a formal contract to take 51 percent stakes in the companies next week.

Sir Richard has appointed an heir, settling a power struggle.

Support. That brought Sir Richard flying back from a vacation in India to put down the revolt and defend his management style.

"I'm not an ogre," he said. "I'm blunt and I'm competitive."

Mr. Oates said Thursday that he was "disappointed to be retiring early from Marks & Spencer." And Sir Richard said it was "very sad that, as part of the modernizing of our top management structure, there is no longer a full-time role for Keith."

M&S: Sparks Fly at British Retailer

Continued from Page 13

it after leaving the London School of Economics 28 years ago.

According to analysts, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Mr. Oates — with only 14 years' seniority — was seen as a newcomer with a financial rather than a retailing background.

Marks & Spencer pioneered the sale of prepared up-market food in its stores, only to be challenged by other Main Street retailers such as Tesco PLC and Sainsbury PLC. It purchased Brooks Brothers in the United States, but the acquisition — apart from introducing button-down Oxford-cloth shirts to a British mass market — has lost money.

A global expansion plan valued at \$3.7 billion was announced last year, just as consumer demand was about to falter. Sir Richard insisted on a high level of British content in his products that made them expensive in continental Europe.

The troubles came to a climax this month when Mr. Oates, the deputy chairman, sensed that he would be passed over for promotion to the top job when Sir Richard divided his titles, an event initially scheduled for next May. According to British press reports, Mr. Oates appealed to nonexecutive board members for

support. That brought Sir Richard flying back from a vacation in India to put down the revolt and defend his management style.

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• China International Trust & Investment Corp., the biggest Chinese investment firm, plans to take a stake in China Securities Co., the fourth-largest Chinese brokerage. CITIC executives, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the plan must be approved at a board meeting scheduled for the middle of next month.

• Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. denied that negotiations for it to take a stake in Philippine Airlines Inc. had broken down. Peter Sutch, the Cathay chairman, said, "Our objective is to reach agreement whereby Philippine Airlines becomes a successful and profitable airline. What is needed for that is still under discussion."

• Thai Airways International PCL's full-year profit rose to 3.7 billion baht (\$102.1 million) from 2.7 billion baht as revenue rose about 25 percent, to 105 billion baht. The airline, which gets about two-thirds of its revenue in foreign currencies, benefited from a 6.4 percent gain in the baht against the dollar in the quarter and a 9.8 percent rise in tourism.

• Kao Corp. of Japan plans to form a joint venture with Novartis AG of Switzerland to develop and sell consumer health products in Japan. Kao, the largest Japanese makers of household and chemical products and Novartis hope to start selling over-the-counter drugs and health products in 2001.

• Blockbuster Entertainment Corp., a unit of the entertainment giant Viacom Inc., signed a conditional agreement and has 30 days to buy assets of the bankrupt Hong Kong video-rental company KPS Retail Stores Ltd.

Bloomberg, Reuters

Hitachi Posts Its First Loss

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Hitachi Ltd., the largest Japanese electronics company, reported its first group loss ever Thursday as prices for computer-memory chips crashed, consumers spent less on household electronics, and companies cut capital investment.

The company posted a group net loss of 14.22 billion yen (\$1.17 billion) for the six months that ended Sept. 30, reversing a profit of 37.67 billion yen a year earlier. The loss was heavier than the 130 billion yen loss that Hitachi predicted in September. Sales dropped 6 percent, to 3.90 trillion yen from 4.17 trillion yen.

Hitachi said that in addition to the drop in chip prices, intensified price competition in the liquid crystal display sector hurt profit. Cuts in private-sector capital spending also weighed on earnings, it said.

In Japan, weak consumer demand weighed on sales of home electrical products such as television sets and refrigerators. Home-appliance revenue fell 6 percent, to 455.6 billion yen.

Hitachi, whose sales amounted to almost 2 percent of Japan's gross domestic product in the year that ended March 31, forecast a full-year group net loss of 250 billion yen — its first since it listed its shares in 1949 — and acknowledged it would be difficult for it to return to profit in the year ending in March 2000.

Hitachi, which has more than 330,000 employees worldwide, still relies on the Japanese market for 67 percent of its sales.

"Hitachi's a bellwether for Japan, and like Japan it's been slow to recognize its problems," said Dan Lucas, an analyst at Towa Securities Co. "It's got problems across its product portfolio, and it's difficult to see much value there."

Hitachi shares fell 4 yen to close at 760 on Thursday.

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Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1998

WORLD ROUNDUP

Tomba Is Indicted

SACRUM The former skiing star Alberto Tomba and his father were indicted Thursday on charges of tax fraud, and the court set a trial date for March 2000.

The three-time Olympic champion, who announced his retirement from the slopes last month, is accused of failing to pay taxes on \$14 million in income from 1990 through 1996. Franco Tomba is his son's business manager. Tomba's mother was cleared of any wrongdoing.

None of the defendants were present in the Bolzano courthouse where the indictment was made. Tax fraud is punishable in Italy by up to five years in prison and fines. (AP)

Malaysia Plans 2008 Bid

OLYMPICS The sports minister of Malaysia informed the International Olympic Committee on Thursday that Kuala Lumpur would be a candidate to host of the 2008 Summer Olympics, the IOC said.

Muhyiddin Yassin and his delegation held discussions with several IOC directors at the organization's headquarters on the procedures for going ahead with the bid, the IOC said in a statement.

Officially, bidding for the 2008 Games will not begin until next year, although Toronto and Osaka, Japan, have said they want to be host.

On Wednesday, Beijing announced it intended to bid for the games. Also expected to declare are Buenos Aires, Istanbul, and Seville, Spain. Also weighing bids are Paris and Cairo. (AP)

249 for West Indies

CRICKET South Africa challenged the West Indian batters to have them at 249 for seven Thursday on the first day of the first test. The game in Johannesburg marked the first time the two teams have met in a test in South Africa. The West Indies captain, Brian Lara, said he was happy with the number of runs his team scored. (AP)

Sampras Stays at Top For a Record 6th Year

No. 1 Crushes Kucera After Default By Injured Rios Assures Him of Title

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

HANNOVER, Germany — Pete Sampras has his piece of tennis history, and a few other landmarks are within his grasp.

Considered by many to be perhaps the finest player in the history of the game, Sampras is notching up the numbers to prove it.

On Thursday, Sampras made sure of holding the No. 1 ranking for a record sixth consecutive year, a mark he feels may never be broken. He had been tied with Jimmy Connors, both finishing No. 1 for five straight years. Connors did it in 1974-1978.

Marcelo Rios gave a nice Thanksgiving present to Sampras when he withdrew from the ATP Tour World Championship because of a back injury.

Rios, ranked No. 2, was the only man who could have threatened Sampras for the top ranking. Sampras entered the season-ending championship with a 33-point lead over the Chilean in the computer standings.

Sampras leads all active players with 56 career titles. Connors' record of 109 looks safe for long time to come.

But Sampras could pull into a tie with Ivan Lendl on the all-time list by winning his fifth season finale. He won the World Championship in 1991, 1994 and the last two years.

Having won his first two round-robin matches, Sampras was already assured of a place in the semifinals before he played Karol Kucera on Thursday. A relaxed Sampras then demonstrated why he is No. 1, crushing Kucera, 6-2, 6-1, in 45 minutes. Kucera is No. 7 in the world and beat Sampras once in their three previous matches this year.

"It feels great," Sampras said. "I put a lot of work into the game. It's tough to stay on top so long."

Sampras' declared career goal is to break Roy Emerson's record of 12 Grand Slam titles. Sampras, 27, already has 11 with some years still ahead on the tour.

By his standards, Sampras had a relatively modest year, winning four tournaments. That included his fifth

Wimbledon, but no other Grand Slams. When the year-end rankings are released Monday, Sampras will be at No. 1 for the 248th week—the third-longest reign behind Lendl (270) and Connors (268). Sampras could pass both of them next year.

In the first match Thursday, Tim Henman beat Alex Corretja, 7-6 (7-4), 6-7, (4-7), 6-2, to become the second player to advance to the semifinals.

The Spaniard dropped to 1-1 but remains alive under the round-robin format. Henman is 2-0.

Henman paid tribute to Sampras. "It's a phenomenal achievement," he said.

"It's tough for anyone else really to comprehend," he added, saying that he did not think the record would be broken "for a long, long time, if ever."

In the second match, Rusedski, an alternate, played Albert Costa, the second alternate who is ranked No. 14 in the world, and won, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1. The second Briton in the field needed 10 set points to win the first set, but breezed through the second.

Rusedski replaced Andre Agassi, who dropped out late Wednesday, also because of a back injury.

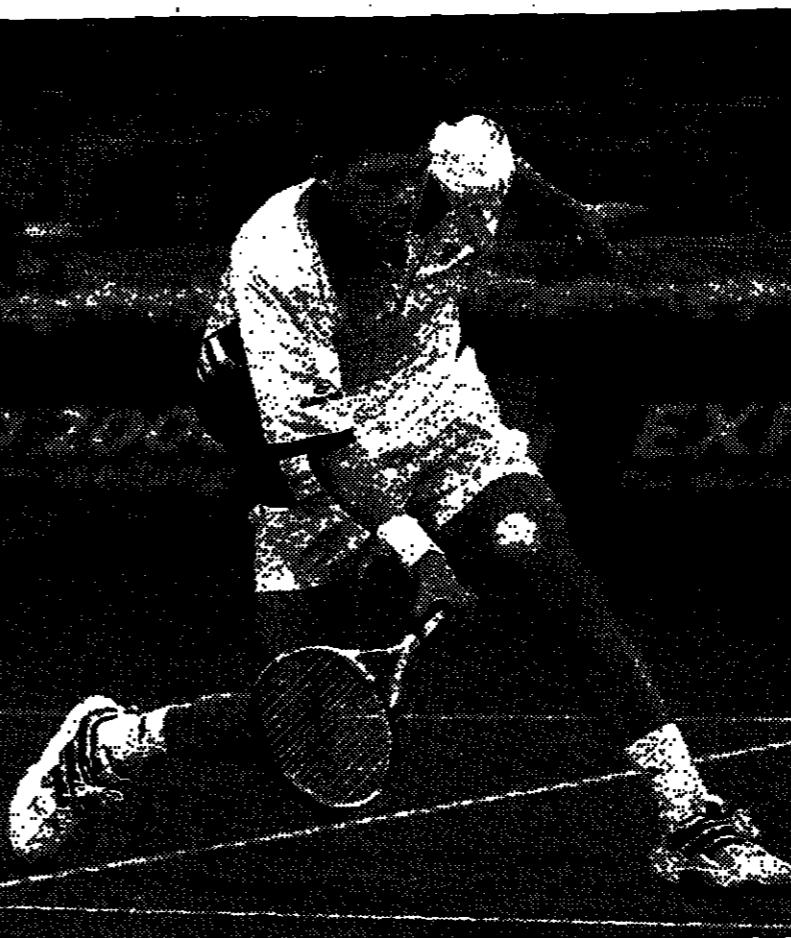
The \$3.5 million tournament brings together players with the best results over the year. But with Patrick Rafter and Richard Krajicek both withdrawing before the event because of injuries and Agassi and Rios out, four of the best players are missing.

Rios had to do better than Sampras in the tournament to have a shot at dethroning him. But Sampras scored quick and impressive victories in his opening matches. Rios had already dented his hopes of overtaking Sampras by losing his first match, to Henman.

Rios said that when he tried to practice Thursday morning, his back was "really sore."

"It made no sense to go out on the court and play two games," Rios said. "I am disappointed but that's the way it goes."

On Friday, Yevgeni Kafelnikov will battle Carlos Moya for a place in the



Tim Henman, who won his quarterfinal Thursday with Alex Corretja.

semifinals. In other matches, Rusedski plays Henman and Costa meets Corretja.

The outcome of those matches will determine the other two semifinalists. With Henman already assured of a spot, Corretja and Rusedski are still in the running. Corretja will advance if Rusedski loses to Henman.

Agassi, after pulling out of the tournament, said that all he wants to do now is rest.

"I'm very sad I cannot finish the event," said the American, who was out of the top 100 and sweating in an unglamorous Challenger tournament in Las Vegas this time last year.

"I had the best treatment I could possibly get, but the injury is not getting any better," he said.

The former No. 1, who hurt his back in a fall in practice Monday, retired during his opening match against Corretja, who was leading, 5-7, 6-3, 2-1.

"I hit a swinging volley at 2-2 in the first set and something got stuck."

Agassi said. "After that it was very painful, and I couldn't move properly."

He received injections on the eve of the match but that did not help.

"It's a spasm in the back, and it has tightened up," Agassi said, adding that he had five injections Tuesday as well as a lot of treatment, but the pain did not go away.

After slumping to 141st in the ATP Tour rankings in an awful 1997 season that saw him win only 12 matches, Agassi got back to work and rediscovered his appetite for the game in 1998. The 28-year-old, using his aggressive baseline game to the full, won five tournaments to rejoin the top five for the first time in more than two years.

"Now I need to go home and rest so that I can be prepared to play my best next year," he said.

While shining in many tournaments, hitting the ball as early and as hard as in his prime, the former Wimbledon champion failed to get past the fourth round in any of the Grand Slams. (AP, Reuters)

Yankees Keep Williams With 7-Year Offer Of \$87 Million

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It turns out that Bernie Williams didn't want to leave home after all. All it took to convince him was \$87.5 million.

Afrid their center fielder and cleanup hitter would defect to the arch-rival Boston Red Sox, the New York Yankees dramatically increased their offer to Williams, agreeing Wednesday to a seven-year contract that keeps the nucleus of the World Series champions together.

"It came down to the fact that I wanted to be a Yankee," Williams said. "I wanted to remain a Yankee for the rest of my career."

Williams' agent, Scott Boras, was pulled out of a meeting with the Colorado Rockies' chairman, Jerry McMorris, at Coors Field in Denver to take a telephone call, from the Yankees' owner, George Steinbrenner, to finalize the deal.

Hours earlier, it appeared that the World Series champions were on the verge of losing their Gold Glove center fielder, who had a seven-year offer from Boston thought to be worth at least \$77 million.

Preparing for life after Williams, New York was negotiating with Albert Belle, who would have replaced Williams's offense but brought his tempestuous personality to the tranquil clubhouse of the Yankees, who finished with a total record of 125-50 in the regular season and postseason, the most victories ever for a team in one year.

"I'm very happy the whole thing is over with," Williams said. "Now I can concentrate on my team defending the title."

Williams, 30, also had been courted by the Arizona Diamondbacks and two other teams that Boras wouldn't identify. Williams instructed Boras to give New York one last chance to re-sign him and the pair traveled Tuesday to Tampa, Florida, to meet with Steinbrenner and other Yankees officials.

Before Tuesday, New York's only offer since the World Series was a \$60 million, five-year contract. Last winter, Williams rejected a \$37.5 million, five-year offer and agreed to an \$8.25 million, one-year contract.

"The bottom line is that the Red Sox drove the price up," Brian Cashman, the Yankees' general manager said. "It was a risk Mr. Steinbrenner was willing to take for the fans of New York to have an opportunity to witness what some say was one of the best teams ever to come back and try to do it again."

Williams's deal, which averages \$12.5 million per season, ties him for third with Boston's Pedro Martinez on the average salary list, trailing only Mo Vaughn (\$13.3 million), who agreed to an \$80 million, six-year contract with Anaheim on Wednesday, and Mike Piazza (\$13 million) of the New York Mets.

Williams, who hit .339 last season with 26 home runs and 97 runs batted in, has the second-most guaranteed dollars, trailing only Piazza, who has a \$91 million, seven-year contract with the Mets. The deal breaks down to a \$1.6 million signing bonus, \$9.5 million salary next year and \$12 million in each of the following six seasons.

The Yankees have a \$15 million option for 2006 with a \$3.5 million buyout. If the option is exercised, the deal would be worth \$99 million over eight years.

Anyone for Pro Tennis? For Zimbabweans, First Find a Racket

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

CHITUNGWIZA, Zimbabwe — The young tennis players were not in uniform. Some were in shorts and T-shirts; some in long pants and ragged, unbuttoned dress shirts. A few youngsters wore sneakers with designer logos, but the vast majority did not. Some wore rubber sandals; others leather moccasins. Some wore no shoes at all, relying on calluses on the bottom of their bare feet for padding as they dashed around the four concrete hard courts in the mid-afternoon African heat.

It is a long way from this dusty suburb of Harare to Hanover, the site in Germany of the elite, eight-player ATP Tour Championships this week. It is a long way in miles or kilometers; a long way in means and attitude.

Spent enough time on the circuit and opulence begins to seem the norm: the German vehicles that silently and sleekly transport the players from lobby to locker room; the huge checks for the winners and the very respectable checks for the

losers. For successful professionals like Pete Sampras and Marcelo Rios, the big numbers start to become abstract: ten thousand dollars here; a hundred thousand there. It is a matter of what one grows accustomed to, and here at these public courts in this densely populated African township, one is accustomed to making do with less.

"Of the kids who come to play here, only 3 to 5 percent have their own rackets," said Webster Mauhunika, the 24-year-old senior coach at Chitungwiza. "A lot don't have any equipment at all." The minimum wage in Zimbabwe is 1,000 Zimbabwean dollars (\$27) per month, and a graphite racket costs 3,000 to 10,000 dollars. With school fees to pay and large families in the rule in neighborhoods like Chitungwiza, it does not take long to do the math: "If we can't provide it, they probably can't buy it," said Paul Chingoka, president of Tennis Zimbabwe.

Chingoka juggles with a supply of 20 donated rackets in varying states of repair, which sounds like plenty until you realize that he normally teaches 50 schoolchildren at a time.

The four courts were built in 1995 with help from foreign benefactors, including the International Tennis Federation, but if they are full on this particular afternoon it is because of local initiative. Byron Black, Zimbabwe's top player, has come to give an exhibition and clinic. Black was born in Harare and grew up playing the game with his younger brother, Wayne, and even younger sister, Cara, on four grass courts and one banana-tree-enclosed hard court built by his father, Don.

The Blacks are white, descendants of European immigrants. The sizable, mostly black, crowd watched the 27th-ranked Byron exchange groundstrokes with Chitungwiza's top prospects. "This is not a scene you would have seen before," said Chingoka, who is black. "Tennis used to be considered a white sport, an elitist sport, but things have changed in the last two to three years."

They have changed largely because Byron and Wayne have been successful in the Davis Cup, qualifying Zimbabwe for the 16-team World Group for the first time last year.

Tennis is growing in Zimbabwe, but which

direction it goes from here depends on Chingoka's ability to construct a durable base with the funds and national pride generated by the Davis Cup and on the ability of people like Mauhunika to keep improvising and nurturing the grass roots.

"These courts are full from the beginning of the day until the end, and I would like it to stay that way," Mauhunika said. "My goal is to produce a couple of players who could end up on the Davis Cup team someday."

For Mauhunika's pupils to have a chance to make the professional ranks, he will need more balls, more rackets and more tennis shoes. But his pupils will need more than that. "The odds are so long on making it when you come out of a little country like this," Byron Black said. "You need something extraordinary. We had our dad pushing us and believing in us. These kids will need something even stronger, because they are coming out of a culture that is so different than the one that is out there on the tennis circuit. Even if they have the talent, even if they somehow get the support, they will have to adapt to that culture."

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN DIVISION

ATLANTIC

New Jersey 12 6 2 25 49 44

Pittsburgh 9 6 4 22 57 50

Philadelphia 9 7 4 22 52 43

N.Y. Islanders 10 5 4 22 57 50

N.Y. Rangers 5 9 6 14 49 54

NORTHWEST DIVISION

W

L

T

Pts

GF

GA

New Jersey 12 6 2 25 49 44

Boston 7 5 2 22 52 43

Buffalo 9 4 4 22 52 43

Ottawa 9 6 3 21 55 46

Montreal 7 10 2 24 55 46

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL

W

L

T

Pts

GF

GA

Carolina 9 10 3 22 52 51

Washington 7 5 2 22 52 51

Florida 8 11 1 22 51 50

Montreal 8 11 1 22 51 50

Chicago 5 13 3 14 49 7

SPORTS



The Leafs' Sergei Berezin being pulled down by Canucks' defenseman Adrian Aucoin, who got a penalty.

Hurricanes Flail the Sharks, 3-0

The Associated Press

Keith Primeau scored twice and goaltender Trevor Kidd returned to last year's form as the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the San Jose Sharks, 3-0.

The victory Wednesday night snapped a three-game losing streak for the host Hurricanes, while the Sharks remained the NHL's only winless team on the road, falling to 0-5-3 away from

NHL ROUNDUP

home. Kidd finished second in the NHL last season in save percentage and fifth in goals-against average, but was relegated to a backup role after a slow start, and the excellent play of Arturs Irbe.

But Kidd shined in his first action since Nov. 11 — a span of six games. He was razor-sharp with his glove in making 36 saves to record his 14th career shutout.

Sabres 4, Rangers 2 Petr Nedved returned to the New York Rangers in a five-player trade with Pittsburgh, but Dixon Ward and the host Buffalo Sabres spoiled the moment.

Darryl Shannon scored a power-play goal in the third period for the Sabres, unbeaten in their last six games at home

(5-0-1) and unbeaten in their last eight games against the Rangers (3-0-3).

Capitals 5, Penguins 4 Peter Bondra scored on a powerful slap shot from the top of the right circle with 3:48 remaining to give Washington a victory over visiting Pittsburgh.

Bondra had two goals and an assist for 502 career points and Chris Simon had a goal and two assists for the Capitals, who broke a two-game losing streak.

Bruins 1, Panthers 0 Sergei Samsonov scored a power-play goal late in the second period and goaltender Byron Dafoe made 26 saves as visiting Boston defeated Florida to extend its road unbeaten streak to five games.

Dafoe notched his fourth shutout of the season to tie for the league lead and the 11th of his eight-year career.

Red Wings 5, Mighty Ducks 2 Sergei Fedorov had a goal and an assist in a three-goal first period, leading host Detroit over Anaheim.

Daren McCarty, Tomas Holmstrom, Brendan Shanahan and Igor Larionov also scored goals and Larry Murphy added two assists for the Red Wings, who have won three straight after losing six of eight.

Maple Leafs 5, Canucks 1 Toronto confirmed its domination of Western Conference teams, defeating visiting Vancouver in a battle of the two highest scoring teams in the NHL.

Islanders 4, Flyers 2 Tommy Salo stopped 44 shots as New York snapped Philadelphia's four-game winning streak. The Islanders won, despite managing only 14 shots to the Flyers' 46.

Predators 4, Flames 3 Tom Fitzgerald had the game-winner in the third period as host Nashville scored three straight goals to beat Calgary.

Fitzgerald fired a high shot from the slot off a pass from behind the net by Vitali Yachimenev 10:23 into the third.

Ducks 5, Stars 2 Brian Rolston, Jay Pandolfo and Sergei Brylin all scored in the game's first 7:28 and visiting New Jersey held off a third-period Dallas rally.

The Devils entered the game in first place in the Atlantic Division and the Stars were in second place in the Pacific.

Oilers 3, Avalanche 0 Mikhail Shtalenkov stopped 26 shots for his fourth career shutout as Edmonton beat visiting Colorado.

DENNIS THE MENACE**PEANUTS****CALVIN AND HOBBS****JUMBLE**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Randi Agnew and Lynn Johnson

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DABNY

DABNY

GAPRY

GAPRY

VODURE

VODURE

GROFER

GROFER

Answer here:

Answer here:

LITTLE PIGGY EXEMPT

LITTLE PIGGY EXEMPT

Answer here:

Answer here:

A crossword puzzle for children.

A crossword puzzle for children.

Answer here:

POSTCARD

But Is It Art? Well, Sure

By Shirley Christian
New York Times Service

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Maria Elena Buszek, self-described nerdy graduate student who reads comic books, recalls having a drink in a Chicago bar when her eyes were drawn to a pinup girl tattooed on the arm of the bartender.

"He slammed my bourbon down in front of me, and I grabbed his wrist and said, 'That's a gorgeous Petty Girl.' He said, 'Everybody thinks it's a Varga,' and I said, 'No, there's a difference.'

That difference has been a consuming interest since 1994, shortly after Buszek arrived at the University of Kansas on a graduate fellowship in art history and learned that the university's Spencer Museum of Art was the repository of a matchless collection of the original airbrushed watercolors of pinup art published by Esquire magazine.

The impossibly perfect females created by Alberto Vargas (editors at Esquire made him drop the "s" when signing his work because they thought it sounded like a possessive). George Petty and others accompanied American men through the depths of the Depression and to the battlefronts of World War II and Korea.

Bob Hope was once quoted as saying, "Our American troops are ready to fight at the drop of an Esquire."

The issue of how to handle a collection that has the potential to embarrass a serious art museum but is admired by some people as magnificent art produces consternation and a touch of defensiveness among Buszek's elders at the helm of the Spencer, people with a little gray in their hair and sensibilities shaped by the 1960s and '70s.

The question has come up off and on in the 18 years since Esquire donated its archives to the university, but it has acquired more currency with the rising prices such art brings at auctions and in galleries. Rough estimates indicate that the approximately 300 pinup pieces at the Spencer — about half of them by Vargas — may be worth \$10 million to \$20 million.

Museum officials ask themselves whether to seek grants for a major exhibition of the material with scholarly analyses and a hundred color reproductions. Should they lend it to commercial galleries or let a Japanese aficionado mount a touring exhibition and — Heaven forbid — make a profit for both himself and the museum? Or should they keep it tucked away in its temperature- and light-controlled vault, available only for scholarly study?

Stephen Goddard, senior curator of prints and drawings, with primary responsibility for the collection, has maintained a policy of making it available not only to scholars but also to those who make pilgrimages to this campus atop the bluffs of the Kaw River. "One family that came from California was in fashion design," he said. "They were interested in Varga art from the standpoint of shoes and apparel. A number of people are interested in the art for design reasons."

Others, he noted, are into nostalgia and admire the Esquire Collection as the inspiration for pinups painted on the noses of aircraft in World War II. They are especially thrilled by the original of Petty's "Memphis Belle," which adorned the noses of many bombers. One of the few times the Spencer lent its pinup art was for the opening of a new hangar at the Memphis Bell Museum.

"Some people see it as great art," Goddard said. "One man said, 'You want to tell me that Michelangelo was a great artist, but for me this is better.'"

Many artists drew pinups for Esquire after it began publication in 1933 as a magazine aimed at affluent men with a taste for stylish clothes and beautiful women, but George Petty emerged from the pack early. By 1940, Esquire thought he was demanding too much money, so it brought in Alberto Vargas, a Peruvian-born artist who had already made a name drawing the stars of Florenz Ziegfeld's shows. Vargas left Esquire in 1946, put the "s" back on his last name, and did illustrations for other media, including Playboy in the 1960s.

To the 27-year-old Buszek, Varga Girls — she prefers them over the work of Petty — are nothing short of feminist icons. In her "third-wave feminist" view, pinups are "an all-purpose icon for the sassy, tough punk-rock sex woman." The pinup, she argues, was a major weapon in World War II, a "modern war goddess." Now she intends to write a dissertation analyzing and defending pinup art from a feminist perspective.

Goddard said: "It's art. There's no question about that. It's simply a matter of how one perceives it and wishes to interpret it."

You want to tell me that Michelangelo was a great artist?

Should they lend the collection out or keep it tucked away in its vault?

An Adventurer's Quest for the Glorious

By Ken Ringle
Washington Post Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland — The problem wasn't getting ice-in north of the Arctic Circle 100 miles from the nearest human. Or seeing the sun disappear for three months and blizzards howl around his stricken boat. He had come for that.

Nor was it the real problem the polar bear that came roaring into the cockpit or the carbon monoxide leak that left him partly blind or the paranoia that stalked him as he huddled, dark and alone below decks with the temperature minus 45 and his vessel sinking deeper and deeper into the imprisoning ice.

The real problem, says Alvah Simon, came with the spring thaw, when he found his vessel's hull still frozen to the bottom, as melting snows raised water atop the ice higher and higher, threatening to sink him for good. "It was very hard to realize that had come all this way and gone through all that only to very possibly lose everything... just as the sun was promising deliverance," he said calmly.

Obviously he didn't. He's right here talking, after all. But the maddest thing about "North to the Night," the gripping book describing his year-long adventure experiencing all the seasons in the Arctic ice, is how many more nailbiting incidents lie unmentioned between the lines.

After sailing his 36-foot (12-meter) sloop 8,000 miles (12,800 kilometers) from Colombia to Maine, for example, he realized he was less than halfway to his rendezvous with the Arctic. And he would be sailing most of the next 8,000 miles through fog, dodging convoys of ship-crushing icebergs.

There's the way he writes that the Inuit secure loads on their sleds with bindings made of bearded seal hide because that's the only substance — including all our expensive synthetic fibers — that you can tie and untie easily when it's 65 below.

Talking to Simon is even worse than reading him. The Arctic trip

came after a slew of tales. His friend was murdered in the Philippines and he and his wife, Diana, had to flee to Borneo; they rounded Cape Horn and sailed through the isles of Indonesia dodging pirates to reach Africa and rebuild a Land Rover and take off alone across Namibia and Botswana for six months.

Alvah, why don't you just get a nice 9-to-5 job and a mortgage in the suburbs instead of courting death?

"Death," he says with complete seriousness, "is only one of many ways to lose your life."

Simon is not your normal adventurer, much less your ordinary author. He never wrote a book before, never really finished high school, never planned to make a living off his exploits and in fact has spent most of his 48 years running away from anything approaching commercial life.

For their Arctic expedition and other efforts to boldly go where few have gone before, he and his wife received Cruising World magazine's 1997 Award for Outstanding Seamanship. But unlike many authors and medal winners, says Jon Eaton, his editor at McGraw-Hill, "Alvah is a very strong person but not in any sense an egotist."

Alvah Simon is one of the great and authentic adventurers of our time," the editor of Cruising World, Bernadene Brennan Bernon, told a rapt audience of 200 in introducing his lecture and slide show last month at the Sailboat Show in Annapolis. "It would be difficult to believe his story were it not for the astonishing pictures you'll see here."

That there are pictures of anything is largely due to Diana, an accomplished photographer. Simon himself spent 13 years shoe-stringing his way around the world via its more remote corners before venturing to the Arctic. He never even took along a video camera. "I wanted the experience for itself alone," he says. "I didn't have an agenda for it. It wasn't really even about me. It was about the incredible people I met along the way."



Diana and Alvah Simon aboard their sloop in the Arctic.

When he was younger, he adds, "I liked about adventure and tried to live it. And that turned into road trips to Mexico, living in the Sonora, and ended up with me running a sky-diving school in Montana." Then, he says, a trip with his brother Jonathan to Central America exposed him to sailing and "there it all finally jelled. That was a life that was larger than life."

When they met in Australia, Diana gave little hint that she had just spent 10 years sailing through Melanesia, trekking in Nepal, skinning firefights in Afghanistan and living on an Israeli kibbutz. "We wanted Christmas together on the Daintree River searching for crocodiles, New Year's in the Atherton Tablelands looking for the duck-billed platypus. In gradual increments she moved aboard."

Together they went on to explore the Philippines and Borneo, Botswana and Namibia, Patagonia and Chile, Cocos Island and Golfito in Costa Rica.

But he had seen a poster that showed a sailboat in Antarctica surrounded by icebergs: "It took from both, held the crowd in Annapolis entranced for nearly three hours last month. The author himself says he found what he went there to find and should now be content.

And by rights they should both have the polar regions on their systems by now. But he is dreaming about South Georgia Island, where Shackleton ended up, "and now with the combination of this boat and our skills there is really nothing we couldn't do."

PEOPLE

THE actor Michael J. Fox says he has Parkinson's disease. He says he noticed a twitch in his left pinkie finger while shooting a movie seven years ago, and after undergoing tests, he received a diagnosis he has kept secret until now. "It was incomprehensible," he says in the Dec. 7 issue of People magazine. "The doctor said I would be able to function for years and years." By talking about the disease, the 37-year-old Fox said he felt it could help himself, his family — he's married to the actress Tracy Pollan, and they have a 9-year-old son and 3-year-old twin daughters — and others with Parkinson's. Fox will continue to work on the ABC sitcom "Spin City," his spokeswoman said.

The American rapper Coolio appeared in a court in Stuttgart on Thursday to face theft and assault charges almost one year after his arrest for allegedly punching a saleswoman on a concert tour through Europe. Police officials contend that Coolio and six members of his entourage left a boutique in a Stuttgart suburb on Nov. 20, 1997, without paying for clothing worth \$2,000. The rapper is accused of hitting the saleswoman in the stomach when she confronted the group. Coolio, whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr., won a Grammy for best rap solo in 1996 for "Gangsta's Paradise," which was featured in the film "Dangerous Minds."

Sean Connery, known as much for his suave portrayals of

James Bond as his fiery support for Scottish nationalism, will play the role of Saladin, the Muslim who led the 12th-century fight against the Crusaders in Jerusalem, in a forthcoming feature film. The Syrian-American director Mustafa Al-Aqqad said that Connery would star in the film, which will have a budget of about \$100 million.

Michael Jackson has lost an appeal to restore ABC, Paramount Studios and a former TV reporter as defendants in his slander suit against a free-lance writer. Jackson sued Victor Gutierrez for \$100 million in 1995, claiming that Gutierrez told the "Hard Copy" reporter Diane Dimond that there was a video of Jackson having sex with a 13-year-old boy. Earlier this year, a Superior Court jury in Los Angeles ordered Gutierrez to pay Jackson \$2.7 million, but Dimond, ABC and Paramount Studios, which produces "Hard Copy," were dismissed from the lawsuit. The judge said they had acted without malice when they reported the writer's claims, and an appeals court has now upheld that decision.

Kate Mulgrew, captain of television's Starship Voyager, is engaged to Tim Hagan, a Cuyahoga County, Ohio, commissioner, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported. The wedding will take place "as soon as she gets back from Delta Quadrant," joked Hagan. That would be during the show's hiatus next spring.



HIGH HONORS — A visitor to the Kremlin museum in Moscow examining an Order of Saint Andrew, in an exhibition devoted to the order's 300-year history.



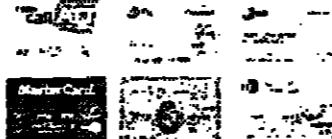
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